

Portage  
historic  
district  
LOCAL, 1C



Baraboo  
death case  
update  
LOCAL, 3C



Show pieces  
Elvehjem displays  
couple's remarkable  
sculpture collection  
SHOWCASE, 1F

Braves sweep into Series  
Indians top Mariners, 7-0  
UW skaters lose  
SPORTS, 1D

© 1995 Wisconsin State Journal

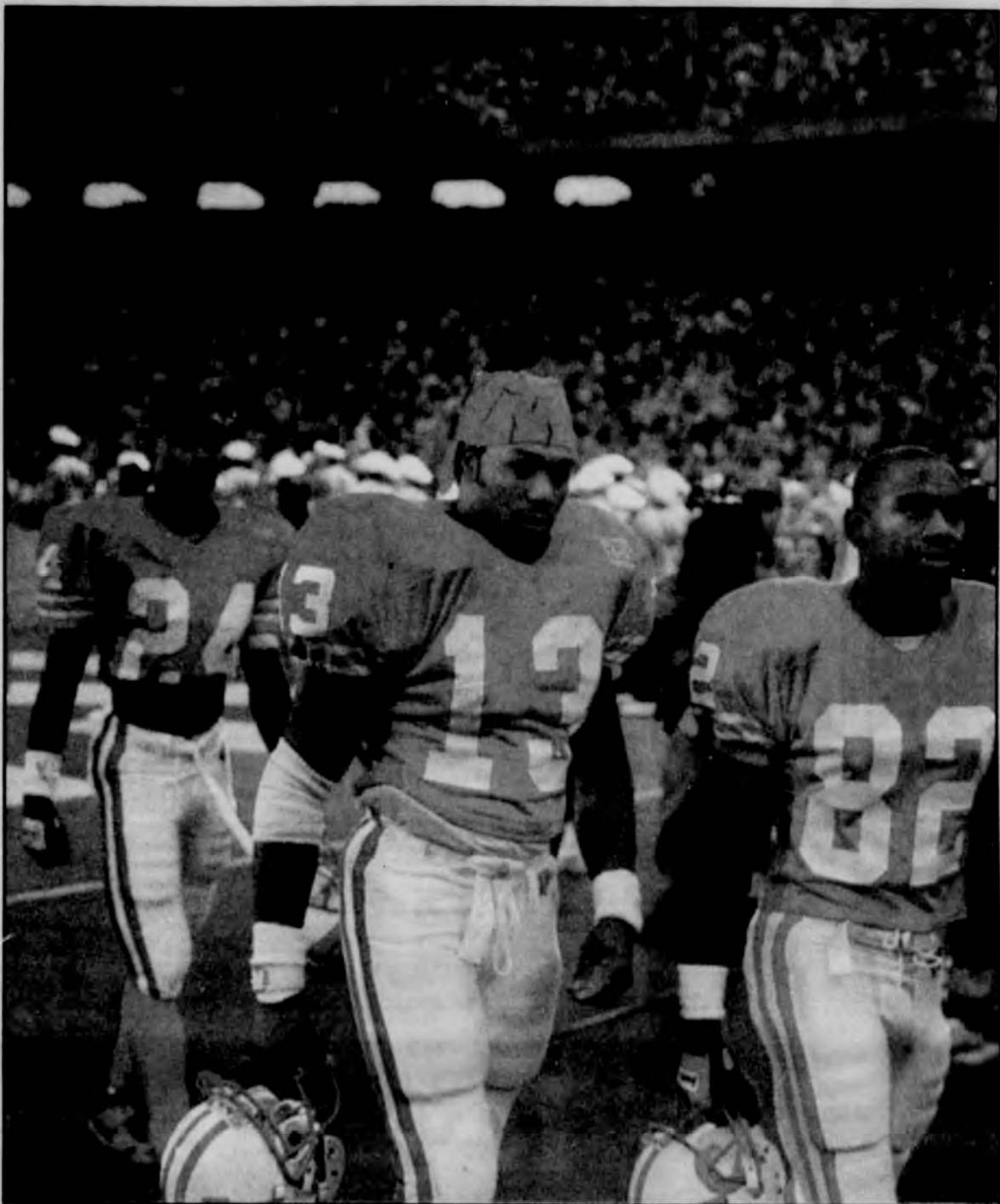
# WISCONSIN STATE JOURNAL

SUNDAY / OCTOBER 15, 1995

MADISON, WISCONSIN

\$1.75

## Bummed out Badgers



Badgers Reggie Torian (24), Carl McCullough (13) and Tony Simmons leave the field Saturday after the Badgers lost, 27-16, to Ohio State at Camp Randall Stadium. The 21st-ranked Badgers were within four points of the fourth-ranked Buckeyes with about 6 1/2 minutes remaining when Eddie George put the game away for the Buckeyes with a 51-yard touchdown run. Complete coverage in Sports/1D.

State Journal photo/JOSEPH W. JACKSON III

## Heartland voters heart and soul of GOP's White House objective

Republicans revisit land of their roots

By Thomas Hardy  
Chicago Tribune

On a recent bus tour of the upper Midwest to admire the colorful fall foliage, a group from Russell, Kan., made a brief pilgrimage to commemorate their politics and ancestry.

The side trip was to Ripon, Wis., birthplace of the Republican Party in 1854 and home to a small band of pioneers who set out for Kansas and settled Russell in 1870.

The Kansas tourists visited the little white schoolhouse where the first organized meeting of Republi-

cans is said to have taken place, and they presented Ripon with a stone fence post symbolizing the hearty Midwestern stock that characterizes the two small towns.

The detour was noteworthy because two of Russell's native sons — Sens. Bob Dole of Kansas and Arlen Specter of Pennsylvania — are vying for the 1996 Republican presidential nomination, and because of the GOP's dominance in the Midwest, the heartland of Republican politics.

"With two U.S. senators from Russell running for president, it was nice to tie in the Republican Party stuff with our town's heritage," said Kay Homewood, a Russell bank executive who made the

trip.

Neither Dole or Specter — nor any of the other Republican candidates, for that matter — can hope to get the GOP nomination and win the White House without running well in the Midwest.

And the region's big industrial states, where the Democratic Party has been in sharp decline, can make or break President Clinton's bid for re-election. Strategists in both parties view the industrial Midwest as the presidential election battleground.

Considering the presidential electoral map and recent voting trends, Democrats are nervous and

Please see **VOTERS**, Page 11A

## FOCUS: SCHOOL RE-SEGREGATION

## Is re-segregation schools' salvation?

Achievement gap remains between whites, minorities

By Phil Brinkman  
Education reporter

As the Madison School Board prepares for a crucial vote next month on whether to end its 11-year-old desegregation plan, a common refrain can be heard: Desegregation has been a failure.

"Why hasn't busing to achieve school desegregation in certain schools helped our children of color achieve a greater degree of academic success?" asked Richard Harris, chairman of the South Madison Education Coalition, a citizen group that advocates neighborhood schools.

Critics contend the current paired-school plan has failed to close the achievement gap between minority students and their white counterparts. Several have called for a return to neighborhood schools, even if that means creating schools that are predominantly minority and poor.

Only by doing that, they say, can the district promote the type of community involvement and level of comfort with a school that enables students of color to succeed.

But research suggests poor and



State Journal photo/L. ROGER TURNER

Busing is at the heart of the dispute over the Madison School District's desegregation plan. Here, children board a bus at Toepler and Euclid avenues, a few blocks from Midvale Elementary, for the 20-minute ride to Lincoln Elementary on the South Side.



"There's no evidence that kids learn better in their neighborhood schools," said Ken Zeichner, a UW-Madison education professor and a parent of three Lincoln Elementary graduates. "The key question, in terms of learning, is the teaching and teachers."

In one of the largest laboratory experiments of what happens when a city abandons its mandatory busing plan and returns to

Please see **SCHOOLS**, Page 6A

- Are segregated schools legal?/6A
- Teachers make the difference/7A
- Chronology of Madison's desegregation plan/7A

## Survey: Majority of residents support neighborhood schools

By Andy Hall and Joyce Dehli  
Wisconsin State Journal

More than two-thirds of Madison School District residents think children are better off in neighborhood schools even if the result is less racial integration, according to a survey for the Schools of Hope project.

Neighborhood schools are strongly backed by parents with school-age children as well as those without. In both cases, 69 percent of respondents favor sending children to neighborhood schools over busing.

However, about one in five district residents favors a sharply different course. They say schools need to continue to work toward integration even if it means busing students to schools outside their neighborhoods — an approach the district has followed with its "paired-schools" plan for the past 11 years.

The Wisconsin State Journal and WISC-TV (Ch. 3) sponsored the survey to assess residents' views on the role and overall performance of the Madison School District. Full survey results will be published next month as part of Schools of Hope, a civic journalism project seeking to involve members of the public in education issues.

**GET INVOLVED:** The debate on neighborhood schools vs. busing for integration will be the focus of two town hall meetings: Tuesday from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Lincoln Elementary, 909 Sequoia Trail, and Thursday from 7 to 9 p.m. at Thoreau Elementary, 3870 Nakoma Road. The meetings, part of the "We The People/Wisconsin" process, are sponsored by the Wisconsin State Journal and WISC-TV.

People interested in attending one of the meetings are asked to call the We the People/Wisconsin registration phone number at 1-800-261-9571.

People unable to register, however, are welcome to attend.

Videotapes of Tuesday's meeting will be aired on the Madison School District's Cable Channel 10 on Oct. 18 and 26 at 9 p.m.; Thursday's meeting will be aired Oct. 23 at 10 p.m. and Oct. 25 at 9 p.m. WISC-TV (Channel 3) will report on the neighborhood schools vs. busing issue on the 6 p.m. news broadcast Tuesday.

The We the People/Wisconsin partnership includes the State Journal, WISC-TV, Wisconsin Public Television and Radio, and Wood Communications Group.

Madison Schools Superintendent Cheryl Wilhoyte said the survey data help confirm what district

officials have been sensing: Most residents endorse the concept of neighborhood schools. But she cautions that the difficulties in implementing such an approach stretch far beyond race to finances.

Too few minority residents

Please see **SURVEY**, Page 8A

## INDEX

- Barry .....2G
  - Books .....3F
  - Classifieds .....1H
  - Click & Click .....3E
  - Couples .....4G
  - Crossword .....2G
  - Daybreak .....1G
  - Diner's .....6F
  - Farm mktks .....6E
  - Forum .....1B
  - Home .....11
  - House ads .....4I
  - Landers .....2G
  - Local .....1C
  - Lotteries .....2C
  - Madisonian .....2G
  - Meetings .....6C
  - Money .....1E
  - Movies .....7F
  - Nation .....3A
  - Obituaries .....8C
  - Opinion .....3B
  - Outdoors .....11D
- Madison Forecast:  
Today: Partly cloudy, breezy and cool. High 54. Tonight: Clear skies and cool. Low 39.
- Details/back page
- People .....12A
  - Records .....2C
  - Rental ads .....24I
  - Schroeder .....2I
  - Scoreboard .....9D
  - Showcase .....1H
  - Stocks .....4E
  - Travel .....10F
  - UW column .....3C
  - World .....9A

## Two-year campus lures 3 of high schools' brightest

### Sought-after valedictorians choose UW Center-Richland

By Phil McDade  
Wisconsin State Journal

**RICHLAND CENTER** — Julie Knoble, Sarah Louis and Jeanne Rego all could have gone to almost any college in the country.

All three graduated as valedictorians of their high schools last spring. All were inundated with offers from colleges and universities nationwide.

As the top graduates of their high schools, each was offered a four-year scholarship to the University of Wisconsin campus of their choice.

All three chose the tiny, two-year UW campus at Richland Center. Their decision, say the students and UW officials here, speaks volumes about the quality of education students can get at the UW's two-year campuses.

"I think the campus does an outstanding job of teaching and

reaching students," said Dion Kempthorne, the soft-spoken dean of the UW Center-Richland campus. "Our motto is, 'A great place to begin.' I think in many ways, it's the best place to begin."

The university's two-year campuses are sometimes viewed as the poor little sisters of the vast, 26-campus UW System. They don't have the stature of a four-year campus and offer only a two-year, associate degree. They have the easiest admissions standards in the UW System; for the most part, high school students only have to graduate within the top three-fourths of their high school class to be admitted to one of the 13 UW Center campuses.

But viewed another way, the two-year campuses are a critical part of the UW System. They're an entry to a college education that

thousands of Wisconsin students might not otherwise get. They often enroll students who are the first in their families ever to attend college.

They're small — much smaller than any four-year UW campus. The UW Center campus in Richland Center enrolls 365 students. And they're relatively cheap; annual tuition for Wisconsin students at a UW center campus runs \$1,670, nearly \$1,000 cheaper than at UW-Madison.

All of those factors played significant roles in the decision of Knoble, Louis and Rego to enroll at UW Center-Richland. All three are among the first in their families to attend college. All three work part time, and need to save money for when they transfer to four-year schools after leaving

Please see **BRIGHTEST**, Page 8A



State Journal photo/L. ROGER TURNER

High school valedictorians, from left, Jeanne Rego, Julie Knoble and Sarah Louis, chose UW-Center Richland over scholarships at four-year campuses.



## Schools

Continued from Page 1A

segregated schools, the Norfolk (Va.) School District in 1986 became the first district in the country to receive federal court approval for dismantling its desegregation plan. The plan had been in effect since 1972.

As in Madison, the move was largely motivated by a belief that desegregation had failed, and that much of the city's white flight could be pinned to busing. A neighborhood school plan was implemented promising higher student achievement, an end to white

flight and an increase in parental involvement.

"None of that happened," said Gary Orfield, a professor of education and social policy at Harvard University, whose study of the Norfolk case will be part of a book due out in December called "Dismantling Desegregation."

"When you resegment schools today, you get schools that are re-segregated by everything: health, income, family level, race. You get schools that have totally unequal burdens and unequal levels of achievement," Orfield said. "Very few schools break out of that relationship between level of poverty and (low) average educational achievement."

The reason, said Orfield: poor children often come to school inadequately prepared; their parents tend to be less involved, hurting the school's chances at getting the very resources it needs to educate their children; and teachers frequently shun poor schools as "too difficult."

The fact that three out of five predominantly nonwhite schools are also poor helps explain why minorities, on average, lag far behind their white counterparts, Orfield said. In contrast, 96 percent of white schools are not poor.

After the busing had ended in Norfolk, researchers Susan Eaton and Christina Meldrum found that black students in the better-integrated elementary schools scored higher on standardized tests, on average, than their counterparts in the city's 10 nearly all-black schools.

The research did not take into account difference in income or family structure, which may have accounted for the different scores. But it does challenge the premise that neighborhood schools — even when combined with special compensatory education programs — would improve students' learning.

By 1993, percentile ranks for third-graders on the Iowa Test of Basic Skills, for example, had declined in eight of the 10 segregated schools over 1989, and in six of the 10 schools among fourth-graders.

Moreover, the gap between black students in the segregated schools and those in the better-integrated schools has grown, with those in the segregated schools doing worse.

In other areas where neighborhood schools were predicted to succeed, the results were equally negative, Orfield said.

Parental involvement, measured by membership in parent-teacher associations, had declined among the predominantly black schools in the first six years of neighborhood schools.

"Parent involvement is more linked to parent education and income level than distance to school," Orfield said.

And despite promises the plan would stem white flight in Norfolk and bring whites back to the district, white enrollment has continued to decline under neighborhood schools, from 42 percent in 1989 to 37 percent in 1993, Eaton and Meldrum found.

In the final years of busing, blacks were also abandoning the district — in greater numbers than whites — leading researchers to conclude that other factors, such as crime and the concentra-

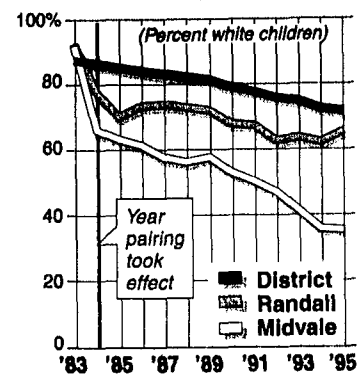
### White Flight?

In 1984, the Madison School District paired the predominantly white Midvale and Randall elementaries with Lincoln and Franklin schools, respectively, whose minority populations were well above the district average.

#### MIDVALE AND RANDALL

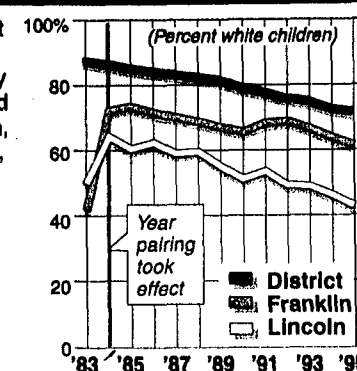
Since then, white enrollment at Midvale has plummeted, while the percentage of whites remaining at Randall has gone down more gradually, mirroring trends in the district as a whole.

Not all of the decline can be attributed to white flight. During the same period, total minority enrollment in the district has gone up from 2,788 in 1983 to 7,109 today.



#### FRANKLIN AND LINCOLN

White enrollment peaked at Franklin and Lincoln shortly after busing started in 1984. Since then, these schools, too, have seen a drop-off in white students.



SOURCE:  
Madison  
School District

WSJ graphic

tion of middle-class homes in the suburbs, were responsible.

From his studies of Norfolk and other school districts around the country, Orfield said it is "dead wrong" to say the achievement gap has not narrowed between blacks and whites under court-ordered desegregation.

Poor and minority students benefit from being placed in schools with a more competitive environment, he said, if for no other reason than the teachers expect more of them.

But David Armor, whose original research on white flight prompted the court in Norfolk to permit an end to busing, said a large gap still exists and doubts the benefits of desegregation.

"My position is, desegregation is irrelevant to academic achievement," said Armor, a research professor at the Institute of Public Policy at George Mason University in Fairfax, Va.

He points to the Wilmington-New Castle County, Del., metropolitan school district, which has

involved massive movement of students and new construction.

By attempting to narrow that gap through desegregation, Armor said, school districts and courts around the country have misinterpreted the U.S. Supreme Court's landmark 1954 decision in Brown v. Board of Education.

The significance of that decision, involving the Topeka, Kan. school district, was a prohibition on "separate but equal" facilities for different races, he said.

In recent decisions, the courts have affirmed that view, relieving school districts of their obligation to meet minimum achievement goals as long as they don't discriminate.

If there is no connection between desegregation and achievement, Armor contends, "it's hard to argue some sort of detriment if you go back to neighborhood schools."

Armor attributes the black-white achievement gap to other reasons, including socioeconomic factors that are beyond the school's control.

But others, who believe deseg-

regation still has an academic benefit, caution against cities like Madison rushing to create segregated neighborhood schools.

While some of those schools have been made to work in severely segregated cities, "that's not justification for creating a segregated school at Lincoln so we could do the same thing," professor Zeichner said.

"If Madison chooses to promote segregation then let's recognize that for what it is, and not promote it as something being done to promote kids' learning," Zeichner said.

regation still has an academic benefit, caution against cities like Madison rushing to create segregated neighborhood schools.

While some of those schools have been made to work in severely segregated cities, "that's not justification for creating a segregated school at Lincoln so we could do the same thing," professor Zeichner said.

"If Madison chooses to promote segregation then let's recognize that for what it is, and not promote it as something being done to promote kids' learning," Zeichner said.

## Madison not legally bound to desegregate

By Phil Brinkman

Education reporter

Since it was implemented in 1984, Madison's desegregation plan has sometimes carried the weight of law. Any attempt to return to neighborhood schools, some said, would land the district in federal court.

Yet Madison has never been under court order to desegregate. Rather, it implemented its plan voluntarily to settle a complaint with the federal Office for Civil Rights, a branch of the U.S. Department of Education.

The distinction is important, because it means Madison is a lot freer to experiment in its student assignment plans, even if that means some schools could end up virtually all white or all black, than a district that was previously found to have discriminated.

"Madison would be free to assign students on a neighborhood

### Read about the plans

The Madison School Board is considering three alternative student assignment plans for the West and Memorial high school attendance areas. While the board is unlikely to implement any one of the plans in its entirety, they do form the basis for board discussion.

To obtain a copy of one or all of the plans, call the district office at 266-6270.

plan unless it could be proven that any racially identifiable schools were intentionally caused for a discriminatory purpose," Atlanta attorney Al Lindseth said at a school board desegregation workshop in August.

By contrast, school districts that are under compulsory desegregation orders must first show they have complied with their original court order, eliminated the vestiges of past discrimination and come up with a plan to prevent a recurrence, said Pace McConkie, a staff attorney with the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights.

None of that applies to the Madison School District, which agreed to try its school pairing plan for just five years, through the 1988-89 school year, but has voluntarily extended it to the present.

Under the plan, students from the Lincoln and Midvale elementary school districts attend Midvale for grades K-2 and Lincoln for grades 3-5. A similar pairing exists between Franklin and Randall elementaries.

Officials with the OCR and the U.S. Department of Justice declined to speculate on whether Madison may encounter legal problems with its current school proposals.

"That case has been closed for some time," OCR spokesman Roger Murphy said of the district's original plan. "There's no reason that we would have a comment on their proposed criteria right now absent another complaint investigation."

The district is considering three student assignment plans, two of which would result in Lincoln Elementary becoming a neighborhood school with an 85 percent minority population and a nearly equal percentage of poor students.

Additionally, one of the plans could make Orchard Ridge Elementary the neighborhood school for the Allied Drive area, resulting in that school having similar characteristics as Lincoln.

It's unclear whether any final plan would be challenged. The South Madison Education Coalition, which filed the initial complaint with the OCR in 1983, never endorsed the resulting school pairing plan and is now advocating for neighborhood schools.

Should a challenge be filed, the district ought to be protected legally, especially if the plan the district comes up with is aimed at improving student achievement, Lindseth said.

Lindseth acknowledged, however, that there are no guarantees the district won't be sued, potentially tying up implementation of the plan for months or years.

"It's the simplest thing in the world to file a complaint," Lindseth said.

## GRAND OPENING SPECIAL!

Buy a  
Better  
Body  
for  
**\$499.95**  
(SAVE \$70!)  
retail value \$569.95



To celebrate our Grand Opening and our 20 years of proven fitness results and excellent customer service, we're inviting you to come get acquainted with the next generation of exciting fitness machines. Our NordicTrack Fitness Counselors will be on hand to help you select the fitness equipment that's best for you. Plus, you can register to win a trip to Canyon Ranch Spa™. So don't miss our 20th anniversary. It's working out to be a great celebration.

HURRY! LIMITED QUANTITIES! LIMITED TIME OFFER!

**NordicTrack**  
Fitness At Home™

WEST TOWNE MALL

NEW! NordicTrack 20th Anniversary Limited Edition of "The World's Best Aerobic Exercise" Just \$499.95

**NO INTEREST**  
12 for MONTHS

Financing available only. Offer expires November 1, 1995.

© 1995 NordicTrack, Inc. NordicTrack Fitness At Home and related marks are licensed trademarks of NordicTrack, Inc. All rights reserved. If the amount financed is not paid in full during the option period, interest will accrue from the date of purchase at an ANNUAL PERCENTAGE RATE which varies by state at 19.9% or 18%. See store for details. The minimum FINANCE CHARGE for any billing cycle in which a FINANCE CHARGE is imposed is \$50. Subject to credit approval. \*MI and OH residents only, hand print your name, complete address, age and daytime phone number on a 3"x5" piece of paper and mail to your local NordicTrack retailer/stock.

ONLY  
14  
DAYS REMAIN

Cain Askercraft

FURNITURE  
1925 MONROE STREET • MADISON

GOING  
OUT OF BUSINESS

MAKE US  
AN  
OFFER

WE'RE EVEN LOOKING  
AT UNREASONABLE OFFERS

OVER 400,000 DOLLARS WORTH OF  
QUALITY HOME FURNISHINGS REMAIN!  
SHOP MON-FRI 10-8 SAT 10-5 SUN 11-4