

MONDAY BRIEFING

Vacant school damaged in fire

State Journal staff

Memories came flooding back for Madison fire Capt. Terry Turnquist Sunday night, as smoke escaped from the roof of School House No. 4, at 3902 E. Washington Ave.

Turnquist, who directed about 20 firefighters from five units at the scene, was a student at the one-story school in 1956.

The 7 p.m. blaze heavily damaged the vacant school, owned by the Madison School District. The adjacent building, the former Paiks Academy for Martial Arts, suffered smoke damage.

Travis Fuhrer, 20, of 37 Sherman Terrace, Apt. 4, was sitting at Wendy's restaurant next to the boarded-up academy when he noticed smoke coming out of the roof of the school.

"I called 911 and then ran to the back of the school to see what was happening," Fuhrer said. "There was a lot of smoke and then a big red burst — some kind of explosion, I think."

Turnquist said the cause of the fire, which probably started in the school lunchroom or office area, was being investigated. He said arson seemed unlikely in the boarded-up building.

Police rerouted westbound traffic on East Washington Avenue.

SNOOP

Update: political maneuvers etc.

Senate Majority Leader Dave Helbach uses all 24 hours in a day, some days.

A week ago Sunday, Helbach returned from a six-day tour of Taiwan (funded by the Taiwanese government) just in time to finalize arrangements on selling his house in Stevens Point and buying another there.

"By Monday night, I had sold a house, bought a house, started moving my stuff and had a Senate Democratic fund-raiser, all in Stevens Point," he says.

Then, he got up at 5 a.m. Tuesday to drive to Madison for the Senate caucus meeting on committee appointments, followed by an all-day Legislative Council hearing on campaign financing. "At one point, I hadn't slept for 36 hours."

PAT SIMMS

■ After you. Please:

By the way, Helbach and Senate Minority Leader Mike Ellis last week each urged Gov. Tommy Thompson to name the other to the state insurance commissioner slot abruptly vacated by Bob Haase.

Helbach suggested Ellis for the opening. Then Ellis wrote the guy that Helbach would be much better. "Furthermore, we are not sure he would be happy remaining in the Senate after this April," wrote Ellis, exposing his political optimism.

He said the Senate would confirm Helbach quickly. "Once he is in office, you can dispose of him as you wish."

Slow day in the GOP caucus?

■ **More country:** Joining the ranks of country radio last month: WSLD-FM 104.5, a 6,000-watt station operating from a studio eight miles from Whitewater. Station manager Ben Rosenthal says WSLD, owned by State Long Distance Telephone Co. of Elkhorn, went on the air Nov. 16. "We're not one of the big boys, but it goes quite a way."

Rosenthal says WSLD had to change its \$1,000 holiday cash game because calls were overloading phone circuits — at Ma Bell's request, the winner last Wednesday was the 15th caller, not the 104th.

He says two weeks ago, the phone company said listeners made 11,913 attempts to call in during a 5-minute period.

■ **Happy Birthday:** Madison super-grandma Cappy Molinaro turns 84 today.

■ **County executive watch:** One of the newest names to be dropped as a potential candidate for Dane County executive is Middleton businessman Bill Howard, who finished a close third behind current exec Rick Phelps and Verona lawmaker Joe Wineke in the 1988 special election.

Howard, CEO of Imagesetters Inc., came within 52 votes of advancing to the finals of the crowded 1988 field.

If he runs, Howard would fit on the moderate-to-conservative side of the political spectrum.

Simms' Snoop column appears Sunday, Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Phone: 252-6126.

LOTTERIES

WISCONSIN — Sun.: Supercash: 9-11-14-19-26-34
Odds of matching all six numbers for \$250,000: 1 in 973,896

Sun.: Pick Three: 3-9-9
Odds of matching all three numbers for \$500: 1 in 1,000

Powerball and Megabucks lottery numbers are drawn Wednesday and Saturday nights. The estimated Powerball jackpot for the next drawing is \$10 million. The estimated Megabucks jackpot is \$4 million. For the last drawing's numbers, dial toll-free (800) 242-7777.

ILLINOIS — Sun.: Daily Game: 0-4-4; Pick Four: 1-8-0-2; Est. Lotto jackpot: \$12 million.

LOTTONEIDA — Sun. Cash Three: 0-8-8.

MINNESOTA — Sun. Daily Three: 3-2-1.

Schools failing minorities?

By Dee J. Hall

Wisconsin State Journal

When parents recently were asked to grade the Madison School District, the schools got pretty high marks — a B average.

But when reaction to the State Journal survey was broken down by race, some striking contrasts emerged. Fifteen percent of black parents gave the district an F, compared to just 1.6 percent of white parents.

That doesn't surprise Isadore Knox, a black father of two girls at Franklin Elementary School. Knox said his grade would be a D or D-minus.

The main problem, Knox said, is black students continue to lag far behind others in achievement.

"The test scores indicate the African-American kids were the only ethnic group testing below the national average," Knox said. "That's probably the biggest concern among African-American parents."

In the most recent California Achievement Test, the median score for black third-graders was 41 points behind their white counterparts in math and 42 points behind in reading on a scale of 99.

The pattern holds true at other

grade levels as well, with whites scoring twice as high as blacks. In a district that has gone from 10 percent minority in 1980 to 24 percent today, the trend bodes ill for the future.

"For a variety of reasons," Knox said, "our kids aren't getting reached."

But test scores are just part of the story, said Virginia Henderson, who heads the minority-student achievement program in Madison. The district spends about one-half of 1 percent of its budget each year — roughly \$890,000 this year — on efforts to raise minority achievement and improve instruction.

Henderson said Madison soon will use portfolios to help measure student progress. These collections of a student's work — both exemplary and routine — highlight creativity and initiative, qualities that standardized tests can't show, she said.

And more Madison teachers are being trained in cultural sensitivity and different learning styles to help serve the district's increasingly diverse student population, Henderson said.

One complaint is that some teachers unintentionally set sights

lower for minority students, said school board member Carol Carstensen, who has two black children and two white children. Carstensen said she knew one teacher who was surprised that her oldest daughter, who is now a Madison Area Technical College student, might go on to college.

"I think it has to do with the way in which teachers and the whole institution reacts to kids of color," she said.

Reaching Madison's minority students, Henderson said, "is one of the biggest issues we'll have for the rest of the century."

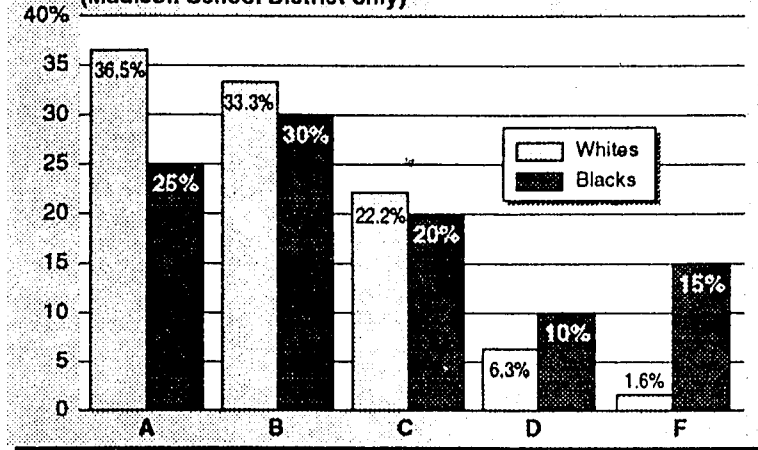
Another problem is there aren't enough minorities working in the Madison schools, Knox said. Franklin has just one black staff member — a small presence given the school is part of the district's "pairing" program for integration, he said.

The main complaint parent liaison Pam Soward said she hears from black parents is that schools are too far from home.

"I know a large problem is kids being bused out of their neighborhoods," said Soward, who works at Van Hise Middle and West High schools. "Parents don't feel connected to the school. They can't

Blacks give schools poorer grades

How would you rate the education your children are getting? (Madison School District only)



drop by and check on their kids."

But South Side parent Bonita Freeman doesn't mind sending her two daughters to Midvale Elementary School on the West Side. Freeman, who recently moved with her five children from Chicago, gives the Madison schools high marks.

"They (Chicago teachers) don't have as much time to spend with kids. They're trying to move them

all along at the same speed," Freeman said. "At Midvale... they let them work at their own pace."

Freeman, who is black, said she and her daughters have been welcomed with open arms at Midvale.

"I think they (Midvale staff) are concerned about them as a person," Freeman said. "It doesn't matter if they're black or white. I think people make too much of this black and white thing."

Real bread, real slow, real good

By Susan Lampert Smith

Regional reporter

RICHLAND CENTER — A bread was born Friday morning at the Wildflower Bakery, but the new papa wasn't totally pleased.

"Hmmm," said Stan Scholl, biting into a steamy hunk from one of three golden sourdough loaves on the table. "I still don't think it's sour enough."

So back to the mixing bowl went head baker Ella Sanford, to see if the addition of a little more salt would bring out the perfect tang.

Then Wildflower owner Scholl and his wife, Ann, will have to choose among the three sour-

dough starter recipes — from San Francisco, Bahrain and Sunset magazine — to determine which one will be the base of their new bread. They already have a name for their new addition: Lone Rock Sourdough.

"We're thinking of calling the (sourdough) rolls 'Little Rocks,'" said Ann.

Lone Rock Sourdough will join Excelsior Bread and Cazenovia Bread as yet another Wildflower product that honors the small crossroads communities of Richland County.

"I still remember steam-powered threshing," said Scholl, 52, who was born in Richland Center but left to work on movies such as the "Godfather" and "Play it Again, Sam" in California and develop real estate in Washington, D.C. He returned home to work on marketing at his family's orchard 12 years ago.

"Those towns really had vitality in those days. It makes me sad to see them shrinking," he said.

But while the names are a nod to nostalgia, the bread itself makes Wildflower part of a growing trend toward designer bakeries. Like micro-breweries that produce distinctive regional beers, these bakeries make breads that will never be confused with the mass-produced fluff that jackets most of the peanut butter and jelly in this country.

For one thing, Wildflower breads are made of mostly organic flour, stone ground from whole wheat berries at the bakery. For another, Cazenovia, Excelsior and Lone Rock, along with several other Wildflower breads, are made from a process that produces what Scholl calls "lean breads."

The lean breads, Scholl said, are made without fat or sugar. Adding sugar and fat to yeast has the same effect as feeding Mallo Cups to a toddler. It

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Head baker Ella Sanford and Stan Scholl, above, sample a new recipe called Lone Rock.

Home for the Wildflower Bakery is an old cheese factory in Richland Center.

State Journal photos/CAROLYN PFLASTERER

Students to ask for course on diversity

By Kim Schneider

Wisconsin State Journal

Noelle Akrabawi spent part of her eighth-grade year — the months that war raged in the Persian Gulf — being called a Communist and getting badgered with questions such as, "Where did you park your camel?"

Now the Oregon sophomore, who is half Jordanian, wants to do something to save other students from being harassed because they are different.

Tonight, she will join several students in asking the Oregon School Board to offer a new class called "Open Minds" next year, overriding the traditional three-year approval process for a new course.

"It's no fun getting teased about something just because somebody doesn't understand," she said. "If people want to get along, you have to understand each other."

The issue of multicultural education has become a hot one in suburban Dane County school districts, many of which are seeing growing minority populations. In districts including Verona this year, racial tensions have highlighted the issue.

"Open Minds" would examine racism, sexism, homophobia and the way society treats its poor. Tolerance would be taught through a study of the civil rights movements and its history, as well as a variety of religions and cultures, the proposal said. An extensive reading list is included.

The proposal was written by a group of students and parents who have been meeting on Monday evenings since the beginning of the school year.

They were frustrated, said teacher Sheila DeForest-Davis, by the lack of coverage multicultural education has received in the school curriculum. They decided to propose a course to reach more than the handful of parents and students who have regularly attended the sessions.

"What I've seen in the last four years is a greater level of disrespect for difference," said Monica King, who has been active in the group with her son, Shaka Smart.

While the district's minority population is 2 percent, others including teen mothers and gay students have faced harassment, she said.

"It's not a really kind, caring environment, and that's sad."

Staff members in the social studies department were receptive to the topics suggested in the outline, said high school Principal Gil Voss. But they aren't likely to offer the course since they are preparing to begin a major review of the curriculum next year, he said.

Voss agreed there is a need in Oregon for this material, but said it perhaps could be better presented in a variety of required courses rather than a single elective.

While there have been no major incidents, some students have faced name-calling, he said. The fact that this hasn't led to fights is largely a tribute to the school's minority students, who have settled the issues in other ways, he said.

Alfie Olson, an Oregon sophomore — who is half African, half Norwegian and was born in South Africa — thinks multicultural teaching is key to helping students understand each other, and themselves, better.

"The biggest problems are teachers teaching things I don't believe are true like that Christopher Columbus discovered America and Egyptians were white," he said. "At that time, Egyptians were in Africa, which is mostly black."

■ Confirmation hearings ahead/3C

Grads happy, uneasy about job hunt

By Mike Flaherty

Wisconsin State Journal

In 1849, Professor John H. Sterling taught the University of Wisconsin's first class of 17 students in a borrowed classroom at the Madison Female Academy.

On Sunday, the university's packed commencement ceremonies stood as a steamy symbol of the phenomenal growth of one of the United States' largest universities.

The university graduated 2,670 students Sunday before an overflowing crowd of families and friends packed into the UW Field House. The university awarded 1,810 bachelor's degrees, 585 master's degrees, 240 doctorate degrees and 35 professional degrees as the crowd periodically roared with approval — including a thunderous round of applause as organizers announced the half-time score of the Green Bay Packers game just as proceedings began (Packers, 28-10).

Chancellor Donna Shalala presided over the ceremony and gave what likely will be her last official speech before she leaves the university to assume her post as secretary of health and human services in January.

"Like all of you, I will miss this special place on Earth," she told the graduates.

She told the crowd that while modern life seems void of integrity, a university degree obliges its owner to lead an ethical life, to pursue excellence, to love inquiry and to make a "special commitment to the future."

The graduating seniors were somewhat less circumspect, however, and their concerns more immediate.

"It hasn't sunk in yet, but it feels good," said Nyra Austin of Chicago Heights, Ill., who graduated in communications arts. Austin, who served an internship at Ch. 47, said she's looking for a job in television. "But jobs are really hard to find."

"I feel fantastic. I still need a job

though," said Dan Cahill of Evanston, Ill., a business and finance major. "It's very tough right now. I've got some leads."

"It won't be real until January when everyone comes back and we won't have to," said Shayla Sokolow of Minneapolis, a psychology and criminal justice major who hopes to return to the Twin Cities to find a job. "Now, I've got to find a job. So far, it's been very hard."

Douglas Bunker, Madison, who graduated in international relations, said he's going to graduate school in California. Susie Vagnoni, a marketing and English major, said she's going into sales. And Sara Brodlie, of Weston, Conn., a communication arts major who worked for Women's Wear Daily as a student intern, said she's going to Vail, Colo., to ski.