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# Metro/State news

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Recycle then recycle  
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## The mother load of the '90s: Women use music and a 'miracle' to overcome lives of poverty and pain

### Poor let lyrics do lobbying

**By Jane Hoffmeyer**  
Staff Writer

Julia Dismore is leading a crusade against child neglect, poverty and inter-city violence.

Her weapons include an old guitar, about 100 songs, an interest for community organizing and a copy of five-headed singers, songwriters and poets called the Mothers Union.

Together they have shaken established notions about how women in welfare should behave and how they define success. The women, all low-income, are convinced that the most important job for poor women is not outside the home, but as full-time mothers to impressionable kids.

Hold off on the job programs, give poor mothers stable homes, and you'll be able to change the lives of the children, Dismore says. She takes this message to churches, schools and community events across the Twin Cities.

*Dismore continued on page 4B*

## Migrant worker's mission is to break cycle of misery

**By Jane Hoffmeyer**  
Staff Writer

A woman of 43 touched her damp eyes with her fingertips in a dimly lit room at the World Trade Center in St. Paul a few days ago. In her other hand she held a citation honoring her as a college graduate.

She was smiling, and her expressive brown eyes reflected pride. But for a few moments, as a speaker recited her brief résumé, she seemed absorbed by another time and place.

It might have been Texas. When she was 8 years old the picket cotton in West Texas with her family. Her father, having what he had to do, hid her from the inspector's eyes when federal investigators came into the fields.

The family needed the money she could produce with her young hands.

She said her parents, her 12 brothers and sisters, weren't immigrants. They were American citizens, Hispanics, living in Texas and tending the farm fields of America to stay alive, hoping sugar beets in North Dakota and alfalfa, picking corn in Iowa and Oklahoma.

Her grandparents said their children had done it before them. She married at 22, to Ramon Quiroga, who was a migrant farm worker. His parents had been migrant farm workers. His grandparents had been. And now the children of Ramon and Gloria Quiroga would become migrant farm workers, and that would define the rest of their lives and their destinies.

Some days a car filled with tanning a house built for pigs.

*Klobuchar continued on page 7B*

## Debate on taxes now class warfare

### 'Tax-the-rich' is hailed, assailed

**Analysis**

**By Dave Smith**  
Staff Writer

Admit it.

You get stranded when that sleek Mercedes-Benz cuts in front of you on the freeway or when that sleek yacht swamps your canoe or when you read about the huge income gains of the upper classes in the '90s.

If you are a middle- or low-income Minnesotan, you find yourself resenting the rich, at least a little. At the same time, you may feel a little guilty about envying the success of others.

The state's politicians know how you feel and they're exploiting your emotions with a vengeance this spring. Class warfare has broken out in almost every facet of the debate on taxes and budgets in the Minnesota Legislature, and it has escalated in the past few days.

*Rich continued on page 4B*

## Global-warming debate heats up

**By Anthony Lemore**  
Staff Writer

All signs pointed to a power struggle.

The St. Paul Charter Commission was prepared to hire an attorney.

This week the group of Mid-west cost and electric companies will begin an ad campaign asking, "If the Earth is getting warmer, why is Minnesota getting colder?" Page 8B.

## Brewing St. Paul redistricting fight fades after talks

**By Anthony Lemore**  
Staff Writer

Small lobbying legislators at the Capitol and in local gatherings.

The subject was redistricting, the once-a-decade process of redrawing the city's ward boundaries. More specifically, Long and Dismore were saying they wouldn't mind seeing the Legislature give the council the power to do the job, retaining the authority from the city's Charter Commission.

Meanwhile, a majority of council members voted to withhold consent from the commission.

But only a month after the City Council and Charter Commission began to quietly position themselves for a fight, they appear to have struck a deal.

Kelly said last week that he does not expect the Legislature to give the City Council the power to redistrict, if such a move surfaced before the session ends May 20. And, council members are expected to back off on the issue this week. The development

The St. Paul City Council is believed to be the only council in the state now to have a say in redistricting. Council members could benefit from the power because it is their ward boundaries — and political fortunes — at stake.

Kelly said there's a good reason for the commission to handle it.

"I'm not sure that taking it away from a third party that is a big success," Kelly said.

*Redistricting continued on page 4B*

## Sure, the route is not all happy trails, but biking to work does hold rewards

**By Mike Koss**

Come Tuesday, thousands of Minnesotans are expected to pump up their tires, bend up their pants and hop on their bicycles and pedal to work.

Friday is Minnesota Bikes to Work Day. This is a public idea sponsored by a number of organizations and is attempting to show that bicycling is a viable alternative to driving. (Did you know that if China had the same number of automobiles per person as the United States, it would need to devote 10 million acres of land to parking lots?)

Certainly there are scores of good reasons for biking to work, at least to the bus stop. (Did you know that the amount of energy provided by one inch of cars is enough to propel a bike 70 miles?)

But often, enthusiasts go on much about the benefits of biking if you bike to work, you'll have a sense in your healthy legs? They bring some of the benefits. Before taking that trip, first-timers should understand it's not all poetry and happy trails out there.

There are potholes and bike thieves. (Already this spring, the Minneapolis bicycle inventory was picking up 10 bikes a day. By mid-June, they'll be picking up about 40 bikes a day.)

Usually, the bike has been stolen and discarded.)

There are cross winds and Minneapolis. Last summer a seven-armed Minneapolis city official ordered workers to use blowers to cut locks and remove bikes that were illegally locked to parking meters. In the name of common sense, the city has said that this year it will ticket before locking.)

Four-wheel drive vehicles with over-sized tires cause Dan St. Aubin to think soft landings. "People who drive these seem to get irritated when they see bicyclists," said St. Aubin, who is 43 years old and bikes

Care doors being opened cause Billy Bender, an aid to Minneapolis mayor Don Fraser and a promoter of bicycling, to break into a cold sweat. "There were lots of people running. Some people just crashed... it was quite frantic," said Franks Stewart, a coordinator of the rally.

*Biking continued on page 8B*

## New zoo exhibit like being under water without getting wet

**Staff Photo by Bruce Shapiro**

John Prevost, an aquarist at the Minnesota Zoo, watched a hot fish glow by Sonoma as some of the estimated 18,000 people attending the public opening of the zoo's new coral reef and shark exhibit watched through floor-to-ceiling, 65-foot-long viewing windows. The \$2,000-gallon aquarium contains more than 100 species of colorful tropical fish and six species of sharks and is designed to reflect the diverse occurrence of a South Pacific coral reef. Because of human activity, oil spills and other environmental damage, reefs throughout the world are in peril. This exhibit, which cost \$2.8 million, will be a permanent exhibit at the Apple Valley zoo.

## Shots fired into crowd at soccer game; 1 hurt

**By Mike Koss**

White Bear Lake Police Chief Paul Major said police had been informed there might be trouble at the college's monthly soccer and volleyball tournament, which began yesterday morning and is sponsored annually by the school's Athletic Club. Extra policemen had come to a tournament, police said.

Police said the man was wounded and another was arrested as he fled from the field at Lakewood Community College carrying a gun.

"There were lots of people running. Some people just crashed... it was quite frantic," said Franks Stewart, a coordinator of the rally.

*Shooting continued on page 8B*