

Spannaus's mailbag is filled by organized antismut effort

By Finlay Lewis Staff Writer

The staff of Minnesota Atty. Gen. Warren Spannaus at first sent out individual reply letters when the mail started flowing into his office last summer protesting pornography.

Now, the concerned citizen will receive a form letter describing Spannaus's role in enforcing state obscenity laws.

Spannaus's aides are quick to point out that they simply are not equipped to respond personally to each of the 2,000 cards now coming into the office during an average month.

The attorney general's bulging mailbag is attributable to a nationwide antismut campaign launched about a year ago by Citizens for Decent Literature, Inc., an organization founded by Charles H. Keating Jr., a Cincinnati, Ohio, lawyer.

Keating was one of three dissenters in the fall of

1970 from the recommendations of the President's Commission on Obscenity and Pornography. The panel, headed by William Lockhart, dean of the University of Minnesota Law School, urged the repeal of restrictions on the sale of pornography to adults.

Then, in early 1971, Keating's citizens group hired a Washington, D.C., direct mail firm, Richard A. Viguerie Co., Inc., to help out with a national fund raising campaign.

Included in the packet of materials sent out to Minnesota residents by Viguerie are cards which the recipients are to sign and mail to Spannaus and to Gov. Wendell Anderson. The recipient is also asked for a contribution to support Keating's campaign.

A recent letter to Spannaus's office from one of Keating's law associates says that the citizens group last year solicited \$15,357 from 1,825 Minnesotans.

Fund-raising letters now

being sent into the state set a goal of \$23,000 from Minnesota givers "in the next few weeks."

Raymond Gauer of Los Angeles, Calif., the national director for the citizens group, said in telephone interview Friday that the pornography problem in Minnesota is "an aggravated as in any other state."

The organization stresses a legal approach toward dealing with smut, Gauer said. Its funds are used to hire lawyers in several major cities on a retainer basis to help, when requested, in criminal prosecutions or in civil actions involving "pornographers," Gauer said.

Spannaus's office currently is studying financial data supplied by the group to determine whether it is in compliance with the state's social and charitable organization's law.

The statute says that a charitable organization's professional fund-raising expenses cannot exceed 30 percent of its revenue.

According to data provided by the state, Citizens for Decent Literature last year incurred a total of \$1,047,741 in direct mail expenses while collecting \$1,221,756 in revenue.

Meanwhile, the cards that arrive by the hundreds daily in Spannaus's office bear messages, such as, "Please advise me on the efforts your office is making to prosecute peddlers of obscene movies and books. Police records show that this filth is connected with sex crimes."

Spannaus replies to everyone who sends in such a card, saying, "It is encouraging to me as a public official to know that so many people are interested in eliminating the availability of obscene materials in Minnesota."

Spannaus's letter also points out that his office doesn't have authority to initiate obscenity prosecutions. But he adds that he is ready to help local prosecutors when requested.

'U' regents approve asking loan for housing

By Brian Anderson Staff Writer

Morris, Minn. University of Minnesota regents Friday took steps to ease a student-housing shortage on the St. Paul campus, but made it clear they aren't ready to let the Minnesota Student Association (MSA) develop student-run housing projects.

At their monthly meeting here, the regents approved an application to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for a loan up to \$5.5 million for a 274-unit apartment complex on a site bounded by Como, E. Hennepin, 27th and 29th Aves. SE.

The project already had received preliminary approval from HUD, but the university delayed action after several legislators raised questions about the project.

The regents also authorized Commonwealth Terrace Cooperative, Inc., a student-run housing project, to initiate efforts to seek federal funds for an additional 150-unit complex to be built in the Commonwealth Terrace housing area near the St. Paul campus.

But by a 7-2 vote, with only Regents Elmer L. Andersen and Neil Sherburne voting in the affirmative, the regents refused to let the MSA, the student governing body on the Twin Cities campus, jointly apply for funds with Commonwealth Terrace.

The board also struck down a MSA proposal that would have permitted the organization to begin seeking federal funds on its own for a student-run housing project on the West Bank.

Most board members said they weren't opposed to the principle of student-run housing, but they did not want to go on record as endorsing MSA's plans.

Regent Chairman Andersen assured the regents they were only voting to reserve federal funds for the housing, but several regents feared their votes would be viewed as an endorsement of MSA.

"Let's not slide into this and then decide six months from now we don't want it," advised Regent Lester Malmgren. "The students will accuse us of double-crossing them, and if I were a student that's how I'd look at it."

Earlier in the meeting, several regents raised questions about how MSA is using students' money. The MSA receives \$1.25 a quarter from each student as part of the mandatory incidental fee.

Regent John Yngve asked for a report at the next meeting on the status of the MSA-operated bookstore, which is currently running a deficit, and asked the administration to draw up some minimum accounting and auditing procedures that organizations such as MSA should be required to employ. His motions were accepted unanimously.

In approving the Commonwealth Terrace housing project, the regents stipulated that after the initial application is made, the proposal must be reviewed by the regents' physical plant committee.

The regents also appointed Russell D. Tall as director of the University Relations Department. Tall has been associate director since September 1970 and acting director since February.

In other business, the regents named Clinton N. Hewitt as director of physical planning and approved university participation in a plan to provide unemployment compensation for academic staff.

\$916,000 in pay raises granted to city employees

By Dennis Cassano Staff Writer

Salary increases totaling about \$916,000 were granted Friday by the City Council to about two-thirds of Minneapolis's city employees.

Police men were given raises of 5.5 percent. Other employees were given raises based on their number of years of employment with the city. Those in their first year were given raises of 2.5 percent and those in their fifth year were given raises of 5 percent.

The salary ordinance adopted yesterday includes a 1972 contract for police and 1972-73 contracts for clerks and secretaries, supervisors and professionals such as attorneys and engineers.

Contracts for about 1,000 employees have not been written yet. These employees include firemen, building and construction tradesmen and laborers.

City man, 24, shot, critically wounded in police stakeout

A 24-year-old Minneapolis man was shot and critically wounded Friday night by police officers who were trying to catch a suspected rapist.

Dennis Wiesinger, 1933 Fremont Av. S., was in critical condition last night at Hennepin County General Hospital after surgery.

Police officers said a young woman who said she was raped Thursday night was asked by the rapist if she would meet him again last night. She told him that she would and that she would bring a friend with her, police said. After he left, she called the police.

About 9 p.m. the woman walked down 13th Av. S. near 5th St. with an armed male police officer wearing a blonde wig, a dress and a blonde fur coat. Other officers were concealed nearby.

Police said a man approached on foot, spoke with the two, and the police officer identified himself.

Police would reveal no more about the shooting.

The raises granted yesterday bring the city's total payroll to approximately \$18 million, according to City Coordinator Thomas A. Thompson.

The Council last year budgeted \$1.6 million for 1972-73 pay raises. Thompson said the actual total for pay raises is expected to be \$2 million to \$2.2 million.

The \$400,000 to \$600,000 difference will be made up, he said, by taking whatever money may be available in the city's reserve fund and by not starting some programs that have been budgeted. He said he did not know what programs might be cut.

The Council also sent to committee a proposal to increase the mayor's \$21,800 salary to \$25,000 starting in July, 1973. Mayor Charles Stenwig's current term ends then. If he is re-elected, he will get the higher salary.

Also referred to commit-

tee was a proposal to increase the \$16,400 salary of aldermen to \$18,081, also effective when the new terms start in July 1973. John Bergford, 7th Ward Republican, said the new salary represents a 5 percent increase for 1972 plus another 5 percent for 1973.

The usual annual increases for the comptroller and treasurer were delayed until 1973 so the mayor's salary can be placed at a higher figure than theirs, Bergford said.

They now make \$22,416, \$600 more than the mayor. Their salary in 1973 will be \$24,700, \$300 less than the new salary for the mayor.

In other action, DFL caucus leader Joseph Strauss, 3rd Ward, read a caucus position paper calling for legislation to expand the city's Housing and Redevelopment Authority into a countywide agency.

The idea has been mentioned several times by Stenwig.

"Suburban communities have available land that can be developed for people of all income levels, thereby reducing the pressure on Minneapolis to provide for needy groups," Strauss said.

The statement called for tax incentives to help developers build quality downtown housing, townhouses, low-cost housing for the elderly who cannot afford to maintain their large homes but whose assets are too large to qualify for public housing, and scattered-site low-income family homes.

In other action, the Council:

Approved an agreement with the Metropolitan Transit Commission to finance half of the losses of the Downtown mini-bus (QT) system, with a maximum city contribution of \$26,000.

Designated April 22 as Peace Action Day on a vote of 8 to 3, with two abstentions. Stenwig vetoed a similar resolution last year because some of the sponsors of the day's activities were socialist organizations. That veto was overridden. Nine votes are required to override a veto.



Staff Photo by Earl Seubert

Environmental library set to open Sunday

Julia Copeland, librarian at the Minneapolis Public Library's new Environmental Conservation Library (ECOL), arranged books in the collection Friday. ECOL is scheduled to open Sunday with a program at 2 p.m. in Heritage Hall in the library building, 300 Nicollet Mall. Environmental films will be shown at 3 and 4 p.m.;

speakers, displays and free plants for visitors will be other features of the open house. ECOL, funded by the 1971 Minnesota Legislature, is a statewide resource center for environmental information. Its opening was planned to coincide with the beginning of National Library Week and Earth Week, April 16-22.

2 hearings are scheduled on North Side freeway

By Howard Erickson Staff Writer

The Minnesota Highway Department has scheduled two public hearings for April 24 and 25 on the design plans for eight-lane Interstate Hwy. 94 between 40th Av. N. and Brooklyn Center.

That means a renewal of the 4-year-old controversy over whether the freeway should be routed through North Mississippi Park at 42nd Av. N.

The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board will take up the question when it meets next Wednesday.

Parks Supt. Robert W. Ruhe, who has won national attention for his firm "no freeways through parks" stance, recommended last year that the freeway be routed instead through the Home Brands, Inc., jelly plant and 13 smaller businesses along Lyndale Av. N. as shown in Plan 7 in the accompanying map.

That means the loss of 258 jobs and \$128,000 in property taxes every year. In the face of opposition from North Side residents, aldermen and the city Industrial Development Commission, the park board decided against endorsing Ruhe's proposal last July and has taken no position.

In the interim, several attempts at compromise have failed.

Freeway engineers suggested building a footbridge from the park to a 5-acre island in the Mississippi River to replace some of the 15 acres of

wild, undeveloped shoreland the freeway would take under their original Plan 9. Study disclosed, however, that much of the island is submerged during high-water periods.

Alderman Joseph Strauss, whose 3rd Ward contains the park, pressed hard last fall for filling in the river channel out to the island to gain even more park land.

But the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers said recently in a letter to the city engineer's office that losing the channel would disrupt the water flow, would still leave the area subject to flooding and is unacceptable.

It all leaves the issue — losing Home Brands and other business vs. losing 15 of the park's 42 acres — squarely before the park board, whose stance will be important when the U.S. Bureau of Outdoor Recreation prepares the environmental-impact statement required before the freeway design can receive federal approval.

The design hearing on the segment between 40th and 53rd Aves. N. will be held at 7:30 p.m. on April 25 at Henry High School. Engineers will display the design proposal at an open house next Wednesday from 3 to 8 p.m. at Camden Northwestern State Bank.

The Brooklyn Center segment from the existing Hwy. 94 to the 53rd Av. N. junction, including extra lanes on existing Hwy. 94 west to Xerxes Av. N. and other 94-694 changes, will be the subject of a hearing at



7:30 p.m. on April 24 at Brooklyn Center Civic Center. The design may be examined from 2 to 8 p.m. this Monday at the Civic Center.

Current plans call for construction of the entire \$66-million freeway, between the Hawthorne Av. N. terminus of Hwy. 94 and the 694 junction, to start in 1973 and 1974, with completion in December 1977.

2 Catholic elementary schools will close

Two Catholic elementary schools in the Twin Cities area will close at the end of the term and another will drop its seventh and eighth grades, it was learned Friday.

St. Peter School at 1940 Lexington Av. S. in Mendota Heights will close because the Sisters of St. Joseph of Crookston, Minn., have decided to withdraw the five sisters who were teaching at the school. The parish decided it could not support an all-day faculty, said Sister Patricia Murphy, the principal.

The school has about 200 students in grades one through eight.

St. Philip School at 905 26th Av. N. will close for financial reasons, according to a spokesman. It has about 100 students in grades one through six.

St. Mary of the Lake in White Bear Lake, also suffering from a shortage of funds, will drop its two upper grades so that it can concentrate its money on grades one through six, according to the principal, Sister Joan McGinty. About 110 students are in the two grades.

The two closings this year in the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis compare with nine closings in each of the past two years.

Twelve people were killed and another 12 were injured when a bus plunged into a river in North Sumatra, Indonesia, Antara news agency reported Friday.

Vital statistics

Hennepin County Marriage License Applications

- List of marriage license applicants including Gerald K. Warabi, John P. Maddell, Thomas H. Andrews, etc.

Births

- List of newborns including Eugene H. Brendt, Arthur T. Foster, William C. Schellen, etc.

Deaths

- List of deceased individuals including Robert C. Naglund, James K. Jantunen, John P. Maddell, etc.

Divorces Granted

- List of divorcees including Jean S. Mueller, Josephine Miesler, Patricia L. Parsley, etc.