

SPEAKING OF THE HOUSE



Peter Meslow, the 19-year-old son of **Rep. Doug Meslow (R-White Bear Lake)** and his wife, **Jenny**, was remembered in prayer on the House floor Feb. 10, two days after he passed away following a two-year battle with cancer.

Memorials can be sent to the White Bear Lake Area Educational Foundation, c/o Madelyn Benson, P.O. Box 10786, White Bear Lake, MN 55110.



University of Minnesota President Robert Bruininks spoke Feb. 14 before the House Higher Education Finance Committee about the university's response to the governor's budget request.

"I've never had the opportunity or privilege to address a committee of the House or Senate on Valentine's Day so I'm hoping this will be a good omen," he said.

"Love is in the air," said **Rep. Jim Abeler (R-Anoka)**.

"I hope for the University of Minnesota," Bruininks said with a laugh.

After Committee Chair **Rep. Bud Nornes (R-Fergus Falls)** pointed out the lack of red apparel worn by committee members, Bruininks responded, "I hope this committee is not thinking red. I hope this committee is thinking green."



Rep. Laura Brod (R-New Prague) is fascinated with main streets of Minnesota cities. Historic photos of eight of the 12 cities in her district hang on the walls of her office in the State Office Building. Cities

like New Prague, Waterville and Arlington are pictured from 1895 to 1910 with muddy streets lined with brick buildings. "I like to stay connected to history as we move forward and build on our history," she said.

Brod, a small business owner who served on the city council, understands the importance of main streets and the impact that one to two person shops have on them. "Main streets are strong in my district. We don't want to see them go away." She also wrote a paper for her master's degree on the topic Main Street Minnesota.



When he appeared before the House Capital Investment Committee Feb. 8, **Rep. Bud Nornes (R-Fergus Falls)** was wearing a shirt and sweater.

"Before I begin I'm going to request that you don't hold it against me that I didn't wear a tie today," he said before sharing the House Higher Education Finance Committee's bonding recommendations.

"We'll note that down, but two demerits," said **Rep. Dan Dorman (R-Albert Lea)**, the committee chair.

Later in the presentation, **Mike Miller**, the higher education committee administrator, needed to testify. He was wearing an open-collared shirt.

Asked Dorman, with a laugh: "What kind of committee are you running over there Nornes?"

When the higher education committee met the following day, both Nornes and Miller donned coats and ties.



House Transportation Finance Committee Chair **Rep. Mary Liz Holberg (R-Lakeville)** was just finishing her presentation to the House Capital Investment Committee Feb. 8 when she mentioned that her daughter played in a Duluth hockey tournament a couple of weekends prior.

"Rep. Holberg and I had a child on the same day," **Rep. Dan Dorman (R-Albert Lea)** said. Quickly realizing what that could have meant, a red-faced Dorman said, "Not the same one. I thought that would get folks attention."

Dorman's son is a swimmer. "Rep. Holberg's daughter deals with it when it's frozen and if it's not frozen Christopher is swimming in it, but they both share the same date of birth," Dorman said.



When testifying in support of his bill, HF9, before the House Health Policy and Finance Committee Feb. 2, **Rep. Tim Wilkin (R-Eagan)** urged members to refer the bill to the House Commerce and Financial Institutions Committee.

"I talked to the chair of the Commerce Committee, and he would like to see it come to his committee," Wilkin said, adding that the chair was "sympathetic" to the bill.

The members laughed, knowing full well that Wilkin is the chair of the said committee.

The committee did refer Wilkin's bill to his committee, where it was approved and referred to the House Taxes Committee.