

## TODAY AT THE CAPITOL

House (meetings in  
State Office  
Building)

■ 7:30 a.m.:

Use of federal welfare block grant, increased sanctions for welfare recipients, housing

development fund: Health and Human Services Policy, Room 10

■ 8 a.m.: Governor's mini-cabinet report on work force development: Room 200

■ 10 a.m.: Increased penalties and driver's license sanctions for underage persons attempting to purchase alcohol or tobacco products with false IDs: Crime Prevention, Basement Hearing Room

■ 10 a.m.: Profile of Learning: Education Policy, Room 200

■ 10 a.m.: Medical provider tax, use of tobacco settlement revenues: Taxes, Room 5

### Senate

(meetings in Capitol)

■ 8:30 a.m.: Full vote on appointment of Steve Minn as Commerce commissioner: Senate chamber

■ 10 a.m.: Medical records privacy, crediting tobacco settlement revenues to health care access fund: Health and Family Security Committee, Room 15.

■ Noon: Cultural and arts center requests: Governmental Operations Budget Division, Room 15

■ 2 p.m.: Regulating paint ball guns: Commerce Committee, Room 112

■ 7 p.m.: Privacy, confidentiality and secrecy of financial records: Judiciary Subcommittee on Data Privacy and Information Policy, Room 15



## CAPITOL BRIEFING

### RELIGION

**House daily prayers will change:** Prayers that cater to specific denominations will be heard again in the state House of Representatives. But the daily prayers will have to be led by chaplains from different religions, the House decided Wednesday.

The change brings the prayer rule back to what it was before it was changed last year, after some members objected to a performance by a Christian choir. On a vote of 71-60, the prayer, which occurs before floor sessions, no longer is required to be non-denominational. By a 79-52 vote, each prayer no longer has to "respect the religious diversity of the House."

"Our goal is not to have prayer that is so watered down and generic," said Rep. Tim Pawlenty, R-Eagan. "A generic prayer by definition in many faiths can't be a prayer."

Countered Rep. Peggy Leppik, R-Golden Valley: "Better that we show tolerance and respect on a daily basis," rather than try to offer diversity over the long term.

Rep. Arlon Lindner, R-Corcoran, who holds a master of divinity degree, said the majority of legislators are Christian, and if members don't want to listen to a Christian prayer, they can wait outside the House chamber until after the prayer is said.

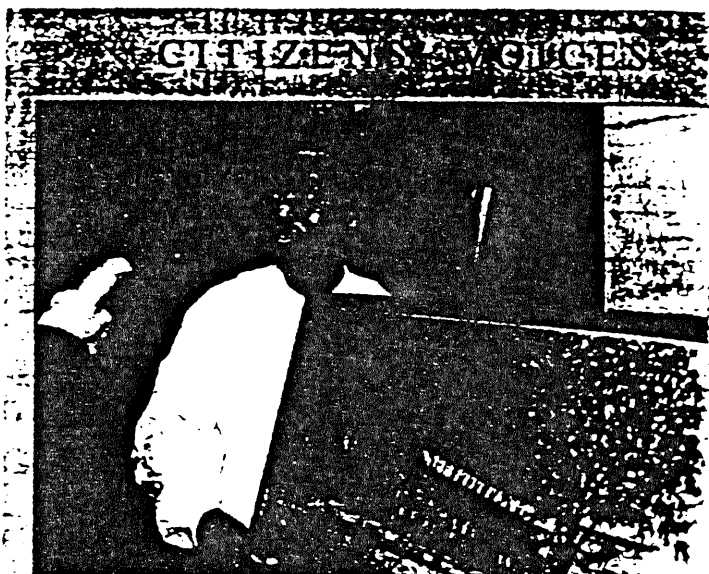
After Rep. Michael Paymar, DFL-St. Paul, objected to spending time and energy on the issue, Lindner referred to him as irreligious.

That prompted Rep. Matt Entenza, DFL-St. Paul, to pass a petition reprimanding Lindner for a breach of ethical standards. It was signed by 59 members as of late afternoon.

— DEBRA O'CONNOR, STAFF WRITER

### CAMPAIGN

**Penny opens office for race:** Tim Penny, former U.S. Representative from Minnesota's First



NAME: Eddle Kalombo

AGE: 23

HOME: Winona

WHAT BROUGHT YOU TO THE

CAPITOL: Kalombo, University of

Minnesota-Duluth student president,

set up an artist's rendering

of the proposed Bulldog Sports

Center at the school. He was

participating in the University of

Minnesota's Lobby Day, in which

students from the university's

four campuses met with legisla-

Request Budget submitted

University President Mark

WHAT DO YOU HOPE TO

ACHIEVE: Kalombo and 15

Duluth students advocated

money to build the sports

and a music performance

building. They also brought

petition for Gov. Jesse Ven

from students, staff and

in support of the new build-

Congressional District, has opened a campaign office in St. Paul and plans next week to kick off his candidacy for the U.S. Senate seat now held by Minnesota Republican Sen. Rod Grams. Penny, a DFLer, established his campaign committee several weeks ago. He joins a crowded field. Six other DFLers have already announced their candidacies for the Grams seat.

— LYNDIA McDONNELL, STAFF WRITER

### TELECOMMUNICATIONS

**Rural Internet service recommended:** Regardless of where they live, Minnesotans should expect access to high-speed, broadband Internet service, according to a report by the Center for Rural Policy and Development at Minnesota State University in Mankato.

Jack Geller, president, said the report is recommendations. Am was the establishment c money to help people Minnesota defray the t of access.

"The state has to r cannot be in a position winners and losers." Ge

Sen. Steve Kelley, D and a telecommunica said the report might apply needed pressure so they know Internet quality access.

Among the report's ommendations: The st favor one techno another; policies sho entrepreneurialism a tion, and should re needs for education among all consumers

— AS

### STATEWIDE

## Minnesota's

## Nicholas O'Hara, leader of Mir

BEN CHANCO STAFF WRITER

"His outstanding leadership will