



Mike NICHOLS

Missing boys not yet ready to leave nest

It's surprising sometimes how much of the little child is left in an 11-year-old, or a boy who is 12. And how much, too, they want to grow up. Purvis Virginia Parker was 11 when he walked away from the home of his buddy, Quadrevion Henning, two weeks ago Sunday afternoon. Quadrevion, or "Dre" as his family calls him, was 12. Dre is, said his family Sunday, like other kids that age. He likes to snuggle up in bed next to his grandmother. Likes to flex all of his 110-pound frame at his grandfather as well, and say, "Papa, look at these muscles."

Garry Henning, "Papa" to Dre, chuckles. Dre also says, "Look at this mustache!" says Garry.

"Boy," Garry teases him, "wipe that dirt off your lip." It was raining hard Sunday afternoon as I stood inside Garry Henning's living room on N. 53rd St., and colder than it should be by this time.

Dre was wearing a black pullover "hoodie" when he walked off to play some basketball at the school just down the street. Purvis had on a "hoodie" that was gray. Most kids that age, I know, seem almost allergic to anything warmer.

The highs were in the mid-40s that day, but even when it's freezing you figure kids can survive a little adversity. They come in when they need to.

That first night they didn't come home it got down into the mid-20s.

There have been 14 more nights since then.

This is unfathomable for anyone who raises kids. "Lord knows," said Pastor Donald Jordan. "I have children of my own," including a daughter who is 8 years old. "I could not possibly imagine my daughter being gone that long."

The pastor had just finished a service inside the McGovern Park Senior Center, where his Christian Methodist Episcopal Church congregation convenes. Prayers continue unabated, to be sure — but there is an increasingly discomfoting reality. Searching, unlike prayer, cannot carry on indefinitely with quite the same fervor.

Police have looked about everywhere by now, from Glendale to Thiensville to, they said Sunday, the Menomonee River Parkway. They looked around the lagoon right outside the windows of the senior center.

Just to the north, they have also searched the Havenwoods State Forest, where 50 years ago we hid our anti-aircraft rockets during the Cold War. Nowadays, our fears are of a different sort.

Just up the street from the Hennings' house, two signs have been planted in the grass, asking, "Do you know who your neighbor is?" and providing a Web site: Wisconsinsexoffender.org.

Craig Winstead, owner of the nearest home, says he did not put them there, but he certainly understands why somebody did.

"I guess," he said, "the neighbors are just looking at every aspect because the kids just vanished into thin air."

Kids are out playing ball one (moment) and fail to come home" the next.

This is not a horrible neighborhood. It is a neighborhood like many others around here, with children who, at that age, present a universal dilemma.

You spend about the first 10 years never letting them out of your sight, knowing it cannot last forever. You finally let out a little rope, watch them while they don't even know it, try not to feel paranoid even though you still walk into their room in the middle of the night sometimes just to make sure they are still there.

Wonder how anybody ever exhales again when they are not.

Editor's note: Mike Nichols' column will now appear in the Metro section on Monday and Saturday, and in the Ozaukee/Washington section, delivered to readers in those counties, on Sundays.

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MILWAUKEE JOURNAL SENTINEL

ELECTION 2006

City boosts access for those with disabilities

Sites moved; ramps and doorbells installed

By KAY NOLAN
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The City of Milwaukee has abandoned 17 polling sites that are not accessible to people with disabilities, and has made improvements to others, such as ramps and special doorbells.

"At this point, 99% of our sites are accessible," said Neil Albrecht, assistant director of

Milwaukee's Election Commission. "I think voters will see a significant difference."

Residents who used to vote at the 17 inaccessible sites have been assigned to new locations.

The Journal Sentinel reported in November that nearly 41% of polling sites statewide posed significant physical barriers for elderly and disabled people, despite the passage of

the Americans with Disabilities Act in 1990. The 2002 federal Help America Vote Act gave municipalities nationwide a deadline of 2006 to meet accessibility standards at polling places.

In older cities such as Milwaukee, where aging public schools are often used for vot-

Please see VOTE, 5B



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A wooden ramp has been installed at the entrance of the Saveland Park Pavilion, 3700 S. 2nd St., to make it more accessible for voters with disabilities. A permanent ramp will be installed later, the county says.

In some races, it's more a renewal than an election

By REID J. EPSTEIN
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It was 1992 and James Garvens was one of three candidates running for two positions on the Brookfield Common Council, so he bought a bunch of red-and-white campaign signs and planted them throughout the district.

Garvens, now 70, won election that April, collected the signs and placed them in his

attic. He's never had to take them down — he hasn't had an opponent in any year since.

"I just don't know why no one's ever opposed me," said Garvens, who, as usual, faces no opposition in Tuesday's election. "I get very few complaints that I can't solve or resolve."

Garvens is one of a handful of Milwaukee-area elected officials who have gone years

— or decades, in a few cases — without facing opposition. Although a few suburban communities regularly have a flood of candidates seeking posts on the school boards and common councils, others, especially county boards, have people who have not been challenged since the 1980s.

Four Waukesha County supervisors have gone at least

10 years without a challenge. Walter Kolb last faced an opponent in 1994, and County Board Chairman James Dwyer had a competitor in 1992. Sandra Wolff of Brookfield and Joe Marchese of Lisbon have been all alone on the ballot every two years since 1988.

Marchese said he keeps tabs on his district, which includes Lisbon, Lannon and parts of

Menomonee Falls, by stopping in on people to chat. He said he's also a regular at county facilities in the district, where during colder months the first thing he checks is the thermostat.

"If I see that heat above 75 degrees," Marchese said, "I go right to the boss and tell them to cut it down to 68."

Please see ELECTION, 5B

PREPARING FOR THE PUCK TO DROP



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Jay Moegenburg (left) and Greg Peterson paint logos into the ice Sunday at the Bradley Center in preparation for the NCAA Frozen Four college hockey championships. First, the ice is shaved to about a half-inch thick, and white paint is applied over existing logos. The NCAA logos are then painted on, and the ice is rebuilt. The University of Wisconsin made the final four, and the Badgers — as well as the other three competitors — will play Thursday.

Urban parks can have splendor without the grass

SPACES



Whitney GOULD

If you think a park has to mean pastoral greenswards and oak groves, think again. A new generation of offbeat parks is taking root all over the United States and Europe, and these upstarts are more gritty than green, transforming orphaned industrial sites with modern design, hard-edged materials and unconventional plantings.

A prime example of this boomlet in "landscape urbanism," as it's called, is the upcoming Erie St. Plaza in the Historic Third Ward. By this fall, the half-acre riverfront park will have opened on what is now a city-owned patch of asphalt at the eastern terminus of Erie St., where views of the harbor are framed by the Hoan Bridge and the Allen-Bradley clock tower.

When I went down there one day last week, it was a placid respite for a couple of fishermen, with gulls wheeling overhead.

Anglers will always be welcome here. But the asphalt will give way to precast pavers interspersed with islands of marsh grasses and lawn and groves of hardy bamboo, all of which will be fed by storm water. Immersion heaters in the grated



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The small patch of land at the end of Erie St. in the Third Ward will become a landscaped plaza with bamboo groves and internally lighted park benches by this fall.

bamboo groves will generate steam and keep the plants green in the winter. The site will be dotted with fiberglass benches lighted from within. Dramatic pedestrian lighting and an extension of the River-Walk are also in the works, promising to make this an engaging place year round.

Funded with the increased tax revenues from new development nearby, the \$800,000 project is an inspired collaboration among Stoss Landscape Urbanism of Boston and two Milwaukee firms, Vetter Denk Architecture and Graef Anhalt Schloemer & Associates, engineers. They won a city-sponsored competition that drew more than three dozen entries

from around the world.

(For details, click on the Department of City Development's Web site, www.mkedcd.org; after April 24, you can see the work of the five finalists on that Web site and in a gallery off the first-floor Commons area at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee School of Architecture and Urban Planning, 2131 E. Hartford Ave.)

Rocky Marcoux, commissioner of the Department of City Development, told me that while the plans had met with "overwhelming acceptance" when they were

Please see GOULD, 5B

Trial today in slaying linked to ID theft

Defendant denies killing man whose body parts were found along river

By GINA BARTON
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On the run from the law, Wisconsin native Dennis Gaede fled to North Dakota, where he lived as Timothy Wicks.

A few months later, in winter 2002, Wicks' torso and head showed up on the shores of the Menomonee River between Wisconsin and Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Wicks' hands are still missing.

Authorities identified the 48-year-old musician and house painter through dental records.

Today — more than four years after Wicks left his Hales Corners home, telling friends he was going to Canada to play in a bar band — Gaede goes on trial on accusations of killing him. Although the investigation

spanned three states, the trial will take place in Fargo, since authorities believe the homicide occurred in a small town nearby where Gaede had gone to hide.

Gaede has pleaded not guilty and maintains his innocence.

For those who knew Wicks and those who investigated his murder, the trial has been a long time coming.

"Thank God it's finally under way," said Wicks' longtime friend Jim Koehler. "I'm hoping to God (that Gaede is convicted) because you've got to get this guy off the streets because this guy is a nightmare."

Wicks disappeared just after Christmas 2001. The Journal Sentinel series "Fatal Identity," published in 2004, addressed frustrations among Wicks' friends and law enforcement officials that, despite much circumstantial evidence, Gaede was not being charged with homicide. By that time, Gaede was serving prison time on North Dakota charges of insurance fraud and theft by deception.



Gaede



Wicks

Please see TRIAL, 5B

