Argus Leader

March 5, 2001

SIOUX FALLS, SOUTH DAKOTA

50 Cents

TECHNOLOGY, 1E



Bargain computers

With PC prices at all-time lows, here's how to get the best deal.



Former Minnesota Gov. Harold Stassen salutes during the dedication of the Harold E. Stassen building in St. Paul in May 2000.

Former Minnesota Gov. Harold Stassen dies

BY STEVE KARNOWSKI Associated Press

BLOOMINGTON, Minn. - Perennial presidential candidate Harold Stassen, whose name became a synonym for political futility despite a distinguished career as a governor, diplomat and university president, died Sunday. He was

Stassen died of natural causes early Sunday at a Bloomington retirement community, said his granddaughter, Rachel Stassen-Berger.

Stassen, a liberal Republican, sought his party's nomination for the White House nine times, the first in 1948 and the last in 1992.

His later campaigns were regarded as little more than political curiosities, although he pushed a serious platform including disarmament, global national health care and full employment through

public works projects. Born April 13, 1907, on a farm near St. Paul, Stassen started his political career as a county prosecutor. In 1938, he was hailed as the nation's youngest governor when elected at age 31 to the Minnesota governorship for the first of three

Stassen said he regarded his many campaigns as a form of expression.

two-year terms.

"You have to run, to be willing to put yourself on the line before you can be really effective," he said in 1978. "You can talk or write about something and it has some meaning, but to be effective you have to lay it on the line. It's my life."

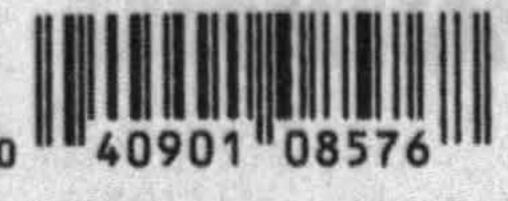
Gov. Jesse Ventura paid tribute to Stassen on Sunday as "a statesman who never gave up his fight for a better state, a better country and a peaceful world."



Partly cloudy

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Scholarship bill survives

But legislators strip funding from final version, and governor promises veto

BY TERRY WOSTER Argus Leader

PIERRE - South Dakota legislators argued into the early hours Sunday before passing a college scholarship bill that includes everything but money to pay for good students to get a higher education.

If that weren't enough, it's a good candidate for Gov. Bill Janklow's

veto pen.

the session, was the final piece of business before the House and Senate adjourned the main run of the 40-day session. They'll return March 21 for a final working day, a time set aside to consider vetoes. Janklow wanted the scholarships

for students who take a challenging The scholarship bill, a version of high school curriculum and enroll at the plan Janklow sponsored early in a public university in South Dakota. Backers of the state's private colleges were able to get their campuses included in the program early in the process, and they lasted through the final conference committee and House and Senate floor votes. Those votes came at 1:15 a.m. Sunday with

clocks at the front of each chamber draped with jackets in a legislative refusal to admit they'd gone past midnight into a new day.

What the scholarship law means wasn't immediately clear. Janklow has said several times he couldn't sign any bill that extended state payments to private schools.

"Let's find out," he said Friday

during a news conference. "I don't have any reason to bluff."

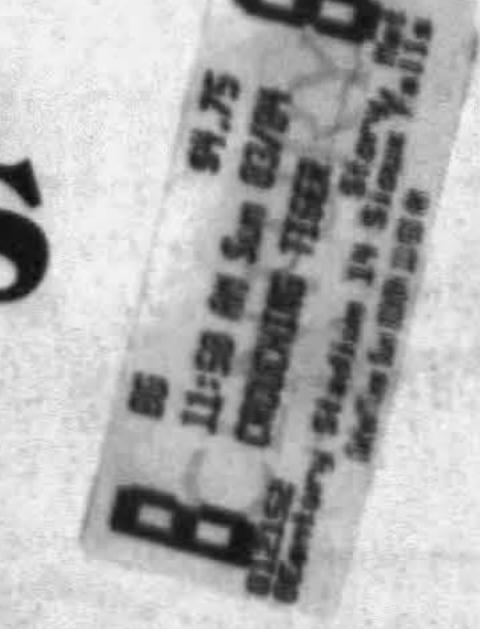
Even if the measure survived a veto, Democrat House Leader Mel Olson of Mitchell told his colleagues it was a worthless bill.

"I don't know why we're arguing," he said. "To have a scholarship

See LEGISLATURE, page 6A

As Carmike shuts down cinemas and Century gains a near-monopoly ...

Theater shakeup hits Sioux Falls screens



Another firm may move in, officials say

BY JENNIFER SANDERSON

Argus Leader Jeff Logan at first worried when he heard Californiabased Century Theatres was opening a 14-screen cineplex in Sioux Falls.

President of Logan Luxury Theatres, he owns movie houses in Mitchell, Huron and Dell Rapids. He feared Century's stadium-style seating and all-digital theaters would lure customers from his 1938 art deco Dell Rapids location, with its sloped floors.

Instead, Logan has found the Dells Theatre's \$4 adult ticket price - \$2 for weekend matinees and all day on Tuesdays - appeals to people who'd rather avoid crowds and save money doing it.

"Actually, Century's helped us," says Logan, who's on the board of directors for the National Associ-

ation of Theater Owners. "We've got stereo sound, new seats, air conditioning, and we make up for the rest with good service. It's not stadium, but it's got a lot of personality."

Other area theaters haven't fared so well.

When Century opened Stadium 14 in November 1999, it ended Carmike Cinema's four-year monopoly on the Sioux Falls movie business. Century's technology and newness drew crowds and profits.

Now, a new cycle begins. Carmike's announced shutdown of 13 Sioux Falls screens signals a return to familiar ground in the city's history of theater chains. In enjoyed a monopoly at one the past 20 years, two of the four companies to set up business in the city have



Patrons fill the stadium seats for a show at the Century Theatre. Century opened its 14-screen cineplex, featuring stadium seating, in November 1999 and challenged Carmike Cinema's monopoly on the movie business in Sioux Falls.



Inside THEATER HISTORY: Sioux Falls has seen a number of movie chains come and go.

STATE REVIVAL?: The historic downtown theater could be the film

society's new home. See page 4A

time or another.

See THEATERS, page 4A

How Oscar picks fared in Sioux Falls

Sioux Falls movie theaters have come and gone, taking with them audience hopes for a greater selection of experimental and

independent films. In an Argus Leader column dated Feb. 13, 1987, Ann Grauvogl wrote: "The Academy Awards nominations give new proof that Sioux Falls needs some kind of alternative theater to bring the movies here that are good but not obvious money makers."

Of the 15 films mentioned in the top six Oscar categories that year, eight had played in Sioux Falls.

This year, 15 films again are represented in the nominations for best picture, director, actor, supporting actor, actress and supporting actress.

Eleven of those films have played in Sioux Falls, with one - "Billy Elliot" - showing on one screen for barely a week. "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon," "Shadow of the Vampire," "Chocolat" and Friday opener "Quills" came to city screens only after heavy Oscar buzz and, in some cases, the

Among those indefinitely snubbed by Sioux Falls

Janet Loehrke, Gannett News Service

nominations themselves.

theaters are "Pollock" and "Requiem for a Dream." The Sioux Falls Film Society will show another no-show nominee, "You Can Count on Me,"

in its spring series. The Sioux Falls audience will have to wait for "Before Night Falls," a biography of Cuban writer Reinald Arenas that earned Javier Bardem his first best-actor nod. The film shows how Arenas was at first inspired by Fidel Castro's revolution but later persecuted by the regime because of his

homosexuality. - Jennifer Sanderson

Program to offer help after suicide of loved one

BY LEE WILLIAMS Argus Leader

Sioux Falls will soon have one of two programs in the country designed to provide immediate assistance to the loved ones of suicide victims.

Local Outreach to Suicide Survivors, or LOSS, is the creation of Janet Kittams-Lalley, manager of the HelpLine, and Lt. Bob Run-

yan, commander of the Sioux Falls police department's crimes against persons unit.

mental

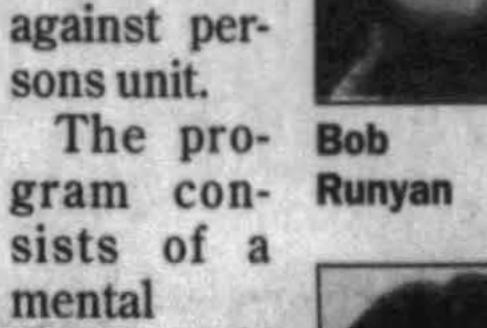
fessional

volunteer

They'll

cide

vivor.





respond to Kittams-Lalley

provide support, comfort and understanding after a suicide, as close to the time of death as

possible. "In attending as many death scenes as I do, you often see family members left without anyone ... without anyone to surround them with help," Runyan said. "You feel helpless and almost guilty for walking away. I talked to Janet and said there's got to be something we can do for these people as

a community." Kittams-Lalley researched the issue and found a similar program in Baton Rouge, La., but it was huge in scope.

"I knew my agency couldn't take it on alone," Kittams-Lalley said.

She brought the idea to the Sioux Falls Suicide Task Force, a grouping of mental

See SUICIDE, page 6A

GOP proposal trims taxes up to \$360 in '01

BY BRIAN TUMULTY Gannett News Service

WASHINGTON - Many middle- to upperincome American couples with children would get \$360 in tax relief this year from the across-the-board income tax cut the House is expected to vote on Thursday.

But millions of other households would get half as much - or no tax cut - under the legislation being rushed through the House by Republicans under the banner of an economic stimulus.

Single people who are liable for income taxes would get only \$180 in tax relief this year, regardless of whether they make \$22,000 a year or \$400,000 annually.

And a family of four earning \$22,000 would get no benefit from the legislation because it already owes no income taxes, according to an analysis by the accounting firm Deloitte and Touche.

Americans are expected to file 142 million tax returns this year, but more than 48 million either pay no income taxes or receive a rebate in the form of the earned-income tax credit, according to the congressional Joint Committee on Taxation.

See TAXES, page 6A

Tax cut impact on typical families

Many couples would get a \$360 reduction in taxes this year under the plan the House votes this week. Singles would get \$180; however, tax rates of 10, 15, 25 and 33 percent would be fully phased by 2006.

	Filing status	Income			
Single, working	Income Second income	22,000	55,000	75,000	400,000
	Total	22,000	55,000	75,000	400,000
1	Tax (present law)	2,183	7,222	11,422	110,036
A	Bush plan (phased in)	1,883	6,583	10,333	96,939
	Bush plan (first year)	2,003	7,042	11,242	109,856
	Savings (phased in)	300	639	1,089	13,097
	Savings (first year)	180	180	180	180
Married, filing	Income	13,200	33,000	45,000	240,000
jointly	Second income	8,800	22,000	30,000	160,000
Both working	Total	22,000	55,000	75,000	400,000
小木	Tax (present law)	1,290	5,318	8,250	104,877
THE RESERVE	Bush plan (phased in)	772	4,388	6,743	91,424
A A	Bush plan (first year)	1,032	4,958	7,890	104,517
1111	Savings (phased in)	518	930	1,507	13,453
Sept of the second	Savings (first year)	258	360	360	360
Married.	Income	13,200	33,000	45,000	240,000
two children	Second income	8,800	22,000	30,000	160,000
Both working	Total	22,000	55,000	75,000	400,000
M	Tax (present law)	2,132	3,448	5,698	104,877
A TOWN	Bush plan (phased in)	2,132	1,518	3,648	91,424
A FEA A	Bush plan (first year)	2,132	3,088	5,338	104,517
100000	Savings (phased in)		1,930	2,050	13,453
	Savings (first year)	-	360	360 .	360
Married, two	Income	22,000	55,000	75,000	400,000
children	Second Income				100
One working	Total	22,000	55,000	75,000	400,000
	Tax (present law)	2,132	3,448	5,698	104,878
N A TO	Bush plan (phased in)	TOTAL PROPERTY.	1,848	4,098	92,444
国人国际政制	Bush plan (first year)	2,132	3,088	5,338	104,518
可能 哪 此 哪 点 题 是	THE PARTY OF THE P				
HARARA.	Savings (phased in)		1,600	1,600	12,434

Source: Deloitte & Touche

Costs of transportation top housing in 6 metros

BY JESSIE HALLADAY **USA Today**

Blame it on sprawling neighbor- researchers say. Commuting hoods. Blame it on expensive from outlying suburbs to the gasoline. Whatever the cause, the areas where there are jobs, shopaverage household in six metro- ping and entertainment raises politan areas - from Houston to costs. Pittsburgh - now spends more on transportation than it does on have built over the last 30 or 40 housing.

Surface Transportation Policy to," says Roy Kienitz, executive Project, Houston households director of the policy project. spent the most on transportation Not everyone believes that the in 1999, an average of \$9,237, trend is unavoidable. "People are while shelter costs were only making trade-offs," says Frank \$7,167.

Ben Cranford, 44, a car salesman nonprofit group. "In the end, they from Houston. He maintains four are willing to accept higher transcars for his family that "without portation costs as a trade-off for question" exceed the cost of more affordable homes." this city," Cranford says.

In the top transportation spending areas, 18 cents of every dollar spent is used for travel, either in cars or on public transit.

One factor that drives trans-

portation costs is the attempt to gain more affordable housing by Blame it on congested roads. moving farther out of city centers,

"The transportation system we years has costs associated with it According to research by the that people don't pay attention

Moretti, director of research for The numbers don't surprise The Road Information Program, a

upkeep on their home, which The study used the Bureau of they own outright. "It's kind of Labor Statistics' annual survey of tough to be a one-car family in 28 metropolitan areas. Transportation costs include vehicle, gas, maintenance, insurance and public transit, but not air or ship travel. Shelter costs include mortgages, rent, maintenance, taxes and insurance.

"A market

dominated

by chains

means a

certain

choices,

says Jeffrey

president of

the Sloux

Falls Film

ARGUS LEADER

Society.

limiting of



KEN KLOTZBACH / ARGUS LEADER

Traffic leaving the Empire East parking lot crosses Louise Avenue in front of a sign advertising the lease for the vacant Empire 6 movie theater. A number of movie theater chains have come and gone from the scene in Sloux Falls in the past 20 years.

City has reflected shift in movie scene

Hollywood to Century, old styles have given way to multiplexes

home to several movie-theater decade, Midcontinent Theatre Co. owned K-Cinema, New Town Theatres, the Plaza Twin and the Hollywood Theatre. Plitt, a national chain, operated the State Theatre and the West Mall Theatre Com-

since then shows a pattern that Centre. The 1939 hall is demolholds true today. Newer companies move into the city, eventually overtake the old guard, and run their course until another company's latest cineplex entices audiences and the cycle begins again.

Below is a glimpse of the theater buyouts, tear-downs and construction projects of the past 20 years:

January 1983: Midcontinent closes the K-Cinema Theater on 37th Street, saying a strong wind could cause the deteriorating outside walls of the 15-year-old theater to crack or buckle.

November 1983: Midcontinent doubles the size of New Town Theaters by adding three complex Town 6 Cinema.

November 1985: Cineplex Odeon Corp. of Toronto, Canada, buys the entire Plitt chain, which includes two Sioux Falls theaters, the State Theatre and the West

Mall Theatre Complex. verts the State into a discount the State the following spring. show house for second-run Mall 3.

August 1986: Midcontinent closes the Plaza Twin to make room for expansion at The Empire

In the 1980s, Sioux Falls was tions including Town Six and the State. Midco manager Dwight chains. In the first part of the Gunderson says West Mall 7 might help bring critically acclaimed but less lucrative movies to town.

September 1987: Midconti-A look back at the changes remodeling at the Holiday Inn City ished in February 1990.

> December 1988: Midcontinent's monopoly ends when Carmike Cinemas opens a sevenscreen theater on the southwest corner of Interstate 29 and 41st

June 1990: A group of ushers from the mid-1970s are among the 600 people to see "Opportunity Knocks," the last picture show at the downtown State Theatre on South Phillips Avenue. Midcontinent, the State's owner, says a glut change over ends Midco's 61-year of city screens and a need for phys-run in Sioux Falls. ical repairs warrant the shutdown.

and Lesa Zafft, owner of the Outer Limits nightclub in Lennox, screen megaplex from San Rafael, more screens and renaming the announce plans to use the State Calif.-based Century Theatres. Theatre as a concert hall. They nent. The plan fails after a threeweek trial run, due in part, cafeteria-style concession stands. investors say, because the City Commission denies a liquor mas files for Chapter 11 bank-April 1986: Midcontinent license on the grounds that build-ruptcy protection after failing to gains a monopoly on the movie ing improvements first must be make a \$9 million interest paybusiness in Sioux Falls when it made. Herb Roe, a retired police ment to bondholders. buys the West Mall Theatre Com- officer, and Grand State Property

> September 1992: Roe and converting the State into a performing arts center.

consultant from Minnesota com- company and the mall won't houses is part of the reason. One wide, including The Empire and June 1987: Midcontinent that supports building an Omni unexpired lease. opens West Mall 7, becoming the theatre in Sioux Falls. The prostate's largest movie theater com- posed Washington Pavilion of Arts buyers step up, Sioux Falls will plex. It also closes West Mall 3. and Science would house the the- have 21 screens, two-thirds of The seven-screen opening gives ater, whose plans are reorganized them at Century Stadium 14. Midco 14 screens at three loca- to become the present-day Wells

Fargo CineDome.

October 1994: Roe and Hendriks put the State Theatre up for sale after they're unable to get financing to reopen the building as a live-performance theater. An offer from a Minnesota company nent closes the Hollywood The- to make the State a second-run atre on North Phillips Avenue to theater again falls through use until March 1999 or until Mid-Sioux Falls, whichever occurs earlier. Hendriks later buys out Roe's interest in the building.

> September 1995: Carmike Cinemas buys Midcontinent, gaining 14 theater complexes in three states. Sioux Falls' Empire 6 and West Mall 7 are included in the sale, giving Carmike a total of 20 city screens.

October 1995: Midcontinent shows its last films at Empire 6 and West Mall 7 theatres. The

August 1998: Sioux Falls' city January 1991: Robin Pruitt planning commission approves final development plans for a 14-

November 1999: Century Sta-

August 2000: Carmike Cine-

Jan. 12, 2001: Carmike closes plex and the State Theatre. It con- Inc. owner Doug Hendriks buy the Empire 6 Theater in The Empire East mall.

April 30, 2001: Carmike will movies and renames the West Hendriks approach the City close its West Mall 7 location, leav-Mall Theatre Complex as West Commission with an outline for ing Carmike 7 the company's only Sioux Falls location. Carmike's lease at West Mall 7 officially April 1993: An independent expires in 2008. Officials for the pletes work on a feasibility study explain the consequences of the key element is stadium seating,

May 1, 2001: Unless other

- Jennifer Sanderson

Theaters: Firm looking at city

to have trouble competing."

munities built in 1995 or later

are making the switch as well.

four sloped-floor auditoriums.

Rebuilding theaters

of damage from a January fire.

stay competitive."

rule out that possibility.

considering

side of town.

Continued from 1A

In the space of four months, Sioux Falls moviegoers will see a drop from 34 screens to 21, with two-thirds of those at Century. That translates into locked doors at Carmike's Empire 6 Theatres. The company closes down seven screens in the Western Mall on April 30, despite a lease that officially expires in 2008. Carmike operates an additional 28 screens in Yankton, Aberdeen and Rapid City.

City planners say at least one outside theater company, which they won't identify, is looking at building a new cineplex in Sioux Falls and should make its final decision within the next 90 days. Such plans for a new free-standing movie complex in the city would dim the hope for reusing the vacated mall spaces for theaters and leave property managers scrambling to find new tenants.

Western Mall staff members are marketing Carmike's West Mall 7 as theater space. But at The Empire East, a mall spokeswoman says the former Empire 6 The- owned South Dakota companies atres probably will become space for retail stores.

Movie buffs aren't thrilled with the news. Fewer screens means a narrower selection of film titles. If another theater company does step in, it could be months before existing theaters are refurbished to a new company's liking, or years before a new cineplex is built.

"It's important to have lots of possibilities," says Jeffrey Miller, who teaches courses on society and film at Augustana College. "In a market dominated by chains, or just one chain, it means a limiting of certain choices."

As president of the Sioux Falls Film Society, Miller's tried to expand those choices. The nonprofit Film Society sponsors make room for parking and because the deed restricts that series of independent, experimental and foreign pictures that continent ceases operation in Carmike and Century won't bring to town. These films are financial risks because of their limited appeal.

> "It's a franchise," Miller says. "You can't open a McDonald's and sell Big Macs for 99 cents. It's largely set by the corporations."

Lower screen profits

Carmike, which still operates seven screens at 3404 Gateway Blvd., filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection last August. The Georgia company isn't alone in its troubles. In 2000, six major chains, including Mann Theatres and General Cinemas, filed the same papers.

The move to reorganize reflects lysts say. Attendance hasn't kept see a show." pace with ticket prices. Gross take up a lease with an option to dium 14 opens, giving audiences a revenue has grown with inflation, buy the building from Midconti- new type of theater: stadium seat- but so have expenses. The ing, all-digital houses and two, country is now glutted with 38,000 screens, each taking home a smaller chunk of change.

"Theaters are keeping their most profitable screens and letting go of the older buildings that aren't generating the revenue they need," says Paul Dergarabedian, president of Exhibitor Relations Co., a Los Angeles company that tracks national box office trends.

His independent company tracks national box office trends. The theater slowdown was a long Moines that represents SDG Mactime coming, he says. The cost of erich Properties. The company building state-of-the-art picture owns shopping centers nationwhich places seats on risers like stair steps to improve sight lines.

"Stadium seating and digital sound make for the best possible experience for moviegoers," Der-



Empire East.

expect these things. For a very non-Similarly, Marsha Van Hill, technological innovation, stadium property manager at the Western seating has dramatically changed Mall, wouldn't confirm whether the way people watch movies. And if you don't have that, you're going theater companies were among those expressing interest in West Carmike theaters in other com-Mall 7 space.

Carmike's future

include stadium seating, says company spokeswoman Suzanne For now, spokeswoman Brown says Carmike has no plans to Brown. Several independently abandon its free-standing sevenscreen complex near the corner of I-29 and 41st Street.

Northern Hills Cinema of Spearfish has added two stadium "It's business as usual," she says, echoing her statement last August, houses. The complex also has when the company filed for Chapter 11 but before it said it would close Empire 6 and West Mall 7.

Logan must rebuild part of his From September through Roxy Theater in Mitchell because December of last year, Carmike cut 121 screens in 38 theaters. Lat-He'll replace the main auditorium er this month, the company plans with two smaller areas, each with to open a 16-screen complex in its stadium seating and digital sound. home state, Georgia.

"It costs at least 11/3 times as Century continues to build as much to build stadium style, and well. In 2001 and 2002, the comthat's not including the sound sys- pany will add 349 screens in 21 tem," he says. "But I have to cineplexes that range from 12 to rebuild anyway, and I also have to 25 screens each. That economy of size lets one manager oversee the The theaters Carmike vacates work that otherwise would could be retrofitted to the stadium require separate crews at two or design, but up-front costs and three smaller complexes.

Dergarabedian, the head of available lots elsewhere might Exhibitor Relations, expects 2001 ticket revenue to pass last year's With Carmike's last theater and Century both along Interstate 29, \$7.7 billion. Already, he says, the-City Planning ater earnings are 30 percent Director Steve ahead of what they were last year Metli says he will at this time.

> urge the company "It will be a good year for thea ater chains," he says. "But one move here to look good year doesn't mean it will help at the opposite everyone overall."

Meanwhile, the Film Society, "It certainly which has been showing its films would benefit the in Augustana's Gilbert Science eastern half of Center, won't rely on mainstream Sioux Falls, and it would disperse companies to meet all of the comthose uses," Metli says. "They'd munity's needs.

McIntyre has discussed renting have a captive market with people from the small communities on West Mall 7 space with Carmike that side of Sioux Falls who have operations people in Georgia, but an industrywide slowdown, ana- to drive all the way across town to the company's status makes an

agreement difficult. Metli believes that if the pro-"They don't have that type of posed Wal-Mart supercenter on thing set up, and it's more hassle East 10th Street becomes a realifor them to do it since they filed for ty, it can become an anchor for bankruptcy," she says. "There are other retailers and a new theater. insurance liability issues if we're in Managers at Sioux Falls malls the building and they have a dilemcontinue to talk with potential ten- ma about how to deal with income for a bankrupt corporate entity."

"We don't have anyone signed As city screens dwindle, Miller up yet, but we are pursuing some expects the Film Society to take on a vital role. conversations with potential tenants," says Melissa O'Hara, mar-

"We might have to think about expanding our schedule or our keting director for The Empire programming," he says. "We are more and more prepared to see ourselves as the alternative cinea regional leasing office in Des main town. But even at that, I hope we don't get down to 14 screens."

> Reach reporter Jennifer Sanderson at Jsanders@argusleader.com or 575-3629

What's your garabedian says. "They've come to (Top of Mind Awareness) among local consumers?

and The Empire East.

The specifics will be handled by

Dormant State Theatre could soon see films

BY JENNIFER SANDERSON Argus Leader

A nonprofit group is working to get alternative films back on big screens.

The Sioux Falls Film Society hopes to finalize plans for its new home later this month, and downtown's historic State Theatre is the most likely candidate. The Gilbert Science Center on the Augustana College campus currently hosts the Film Society's series.

"We've been negotiating on the facility, and we should be able to have an announcement as early as mid-March," says Film Society spokeswoman Deb McIntyre.

If the Film Society does strike a deal, it will be the first time movies have shown on the State's screen since the theater closed 11 years ago. It also would provide a spark of life for the landmark at 316 S. Phillips Ave., which has seen only sporadic use in the interim.

Theater companies, private partnerships and citizens' groups all have expressed interest in refurbishing the State since it showed its last film. But restricscreen dark.

Midcontinent Theatres closed the building as a picture house in June 1990 but secured the health of its movie-business monopoly in Sioux Falls with a use restriction on the State. Public records show



ARGUS LEADER FILE PHOTO

A 1994 photo of the historic State Theatre in downtown Sioux Falls.

a clause preventing the new owner from showing first-run movies at the State until March 1999 or until Midco ceased operation in the city, whichever happened earlier.

In January 1991, businessman Robin Pruitt and nightclub owner Lesa Zafft took up the lease, with an option to buy. The pair planned tions on the building's use and a to reopen the State Theatre as a shortage of money largely have concert hall. The City Council panies specializing in second-run kept the auditorium empty and the denied the State a liquor license, on the grounds that building repairs must first be made. Pruitt and Zafft's experiment failed after

> a three-week trial run. Doug Hendriks and Herb Roe, a retired police officer, bought the State Theatre the following

spring. They intended to restore it to its original use, a live performance hall. But this pair, too, hit roadblocks and could not raise the money needed for repairs. Hendriks later bought out Roe's share in the building. The deed restriction on first-run

movies has since expired, but city planner Steve Metli says that commovie houses remain among those most interested in the building.

"In the past five years, we've had one out of Minneapolis look at the

State," Metli says. Doug and Lori Andrews run The Elks Theatre and Stargate

Theatre as intermediate-run movie houses in Rapid City, both of which get movies as soon as they leave first-run theaters. The couple looked long and hard at Sioux Falls' State Theatre in 1994, Doug Andrews says.

"We explored it in a lot of detail and depth, and the cost was just too large to make it work," Andrews says.

The State needed an overhaul for plumbing and heating, as well as new seats and projection equipment, he says. He pegged restoration costs at about \$1 million.

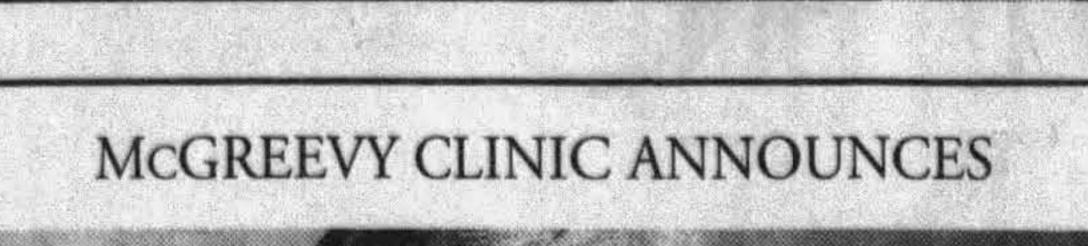
McIntyre wouldn't disclose the Film Society's operating budget, but she says buying the State is not an option for the group. She hopes she'll be able to work with its owners to rent it.

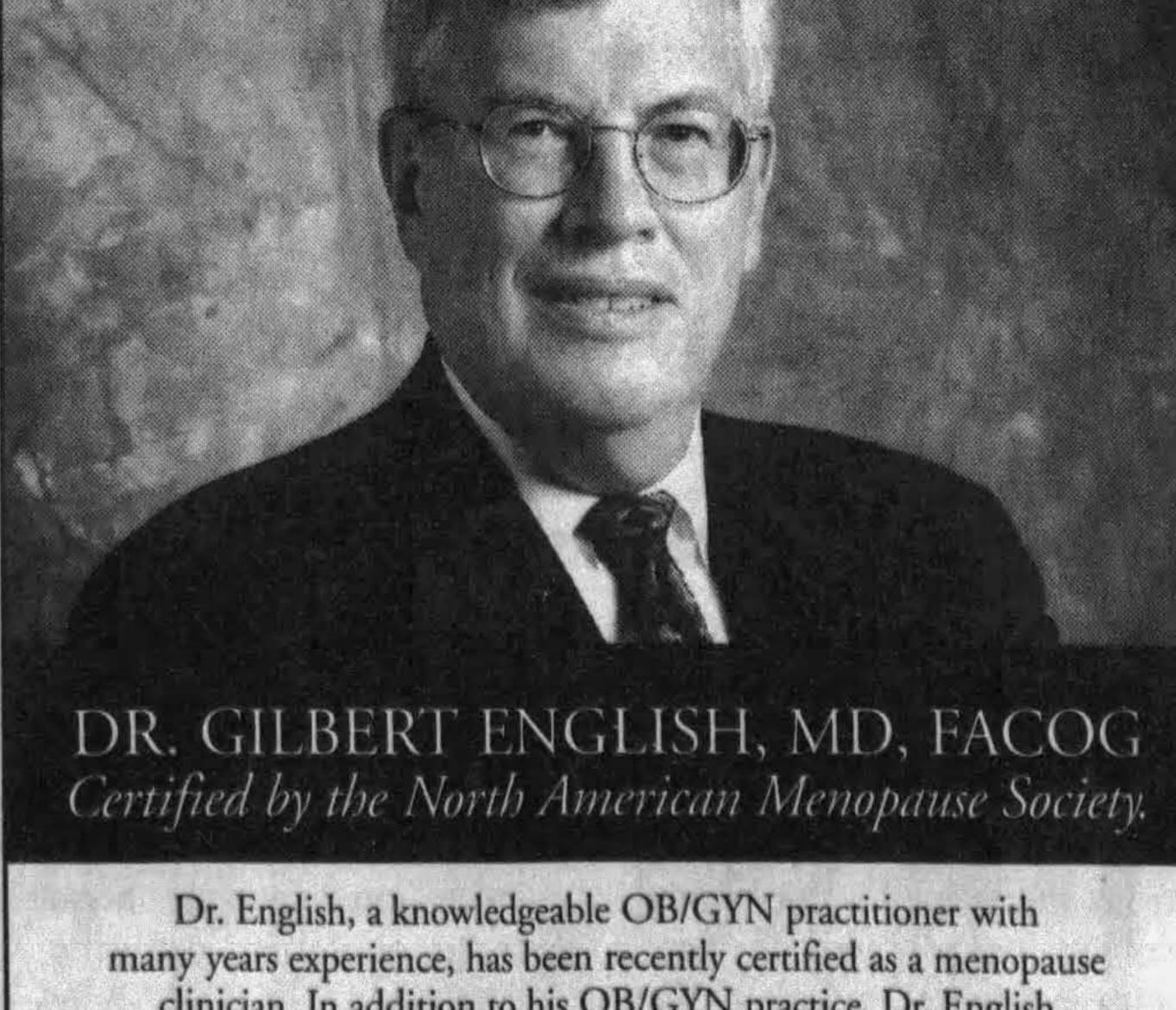
"We're a specialty market, not a commercial film presenter, so the State Theatre is a more logical choice for us" than the Empire 6 or West Mall 7, she says.

McIntyre's marketing plan would involve dinner-and-movie packages with downtown restaurants and cooperative advertising with partners such as Main Street Sioux Falls.

"I keep thinking that if we were in a more visible space and people could see on a marquee, on a daia company out of Rapid City and ly basis, what we were doing, we would draw more people."

> Reach reporter Jennifer Sanderson at Jsanders@argusleader.com or 575-3629





clinician. In addition to his OB/GYN practice, Dr. English welcomes women with menopause related concerns.

To schedule an appointment, call 605-336-2140

McGreevy Clinic LLR

McGreevy Clinic, Main Clinic, 1200 South 7th Avenue Sioux Falls, SD 57105