

Anniversaries

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Old nails are not too rusty for next job

My dad used to recite a poem that, as best I can remember, started "For want of a nail, a shoe was lost," and ended with some king and his army losing a war.

Dad probably thought he was conveying a lesson on the importance of tending to detail, on how even the seemingly insignificant things can be of great consequence in the universal plan. thought he was talking about making sure you always had nails around the place. And, by golly, on our farm we always did have nails around.

From as far back as I can remember, my dad saved nails. He saved bolts, screws, nuts and washers, too, and the garage at the farm had dozens of coffee cans, paint buckets, plastic saucers, soup cans and Mason jars sitting around with varioussized nails and bolts. That's the way it was down the road at my uncle Frank's place, too, and at the Hamiel place nearby, and Kistlers and **Bunkers and Ericksons and** Schindlers, too, I'm sure.

People in our neighborhood were savers. You never knew when you might need a rusted, 3-inch stove bolt that you'd have to paw through five different cans of washers and nuts to find before you could fasten it to the intended spot on a cultivator or some other piece of equipment.

One of my dad's goals in life, I believed as a child, was to never, ever use a new nail. We had them around, sacks of bright, galvanized spikes and finishing nails and all the rest. He just tried not to ever use one. Instead, he'd pull old nails from every board and plank and rotten piece of lumber he happened on. They'd be scarred and bent, with the heads broken or twisted. He'd patiently place each one on the flat top of an anvil and hammer gently at it until it was straight, or nearly so. Then he'd toss

it in one of the cans. Those little suckers were the dickens to drive into a fence post or piece of barn siding. They were for me, anyway. I'd take a couple of whacks with the hammer. The nail would re-bend. I'd straighten it with the claws of the hammer. Another blow would bring another bend. Eventually, I'd pound the misshapen thing flat into the wood and grab another nail. I swore, time after time, that when I grew up, I'd use nothing but brand-new nails.

Well, last Saturday I finally got around to making some repairs on the wooden fence at the edge of my property. I carefully set out a couple of new posts, some lengths of 2-by-4 and a dozen or so one-by-sixes. I also lined up three or four coffee cans of rusted, bent, but still usable, nails. A few times I had to fish through two or three cans to find the right nail. Most of the time, though, I was able to pull the old nail from the fence I was repairing. I scrounged around the yard until I found a nice piece of flat rock that I used to lay each salvaged nail on so I could pound it

straight. I do have a couple of sacks of new nails in the basement. I bought them a few years back. I don't mind using them, either. At least, I wouldn't mind if I ever needed a new nail. I think I did end up digging into those sacks three or four times during my fence-building last

week. Most of the time, though, I managed to re-use the nails from the old fence or the coffee cans. I guess I really wasn't daydreaming the entire time I was growing up.

Terry Woster is an Argus Leaderstaff writer. Write to him at Box 1011, Pierre, SD 57501

www.argusleader.com

'It's wonderful she can express herself through her paintings, because she's such a beautiful person.' - Maryln Hamois says.of her daughter Karla. Delicate strokes



Lloyd B. Cunningham / Argus Leader

Karla Harnois puts oil to canvas with a brush she holds in her teeth. She has been painting for years from her wheelchair.

Sioux Falls artist with cerebral palsy puts brush into her mouth to express herself on canvas

By JENNIFER SANDERSON

Argus Leader ip, arc, jab – Karla Harnois spends her days creating flowers, portraits and landscapes with subtle neck and mouth movements. Both hands flutter uncontrollably as she concentrates her energy on the muscles that steer the brush.

"My body won't relax," Harnois explains later.

So Harnois paints with her

The 39-year-old Sioux Falls woman is part of a select group of artists who've overcome physical limitations to express themselves in ways beyond words. Her most recent Sioux Falls exhibition opened Thursday.

The anatomical achievement is considerable. The sternocleidomastoid muscle flexes the head. The splenius capitis rotates. The levator scapulae stretch back toward the shoulder blades, and the trapezius overlays them all.

Harnois might not know the particulars, but she knows this detached, medical language also is her reality.

The muscle group that controls her neck movements is one of only a few that her cerebral palsy

allows her to master. Her muscles there are good, strong, reliable. They help her create color and rhythm and shape. They let her define distance and perspective and, above all, create light. They give her the freedom to paint, using a special easel and mouthpiece. They've opened an artistic career to her, and she's

PROFILE



Who: Karla Harnois. ■ What: Sioux Falls artist and member of the Association of Mouth and Foot Painting Artists Worldwide.

■ Background: Began painting with a brush in her mouth at age 17 and now sells artwork internationally through DakotAbilities and the artists' association.

Hometown: Vermillion. Family: Parents, John

and Maryln Harnois; two older brothers, two younger brothers; three nephews and two nieces. A younger sister is deceased.

Exhibit through June 1: Artist-in-residence series at Deerfield Branch Midwest Bank, at 3310 W. 49th St. in Sioux Falls. Hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and 9 a.m. to noon

seen her works marketed in Europe as a result.

Harnois works from a studio at

DakotAbilities in Sioux Falls, on

the same campus where most of

the agency's clients live. She has

She takes a bus home to her own

apartment each night, where she

and her roommate, also disabled,

wheelchair lets her go where she

wants, when she wants. Her physi-

cal limitations cannot touch what

she holds within, though her artis-

tic voice nearly was silenced when

her spasticity worsened two years

Harnois has been fighting to be

"I'm lucky to be here," she says.

Maryln Harnois believes paint-

ing is the perfect vehicle for her

heard nearly since the beginning.

When she was 3 months old, a

It nearly took her life.

daughter's personality.

toll on her brain.

high and sustained fever took its

help each other. Her motorized

more independence than most.

Karla

Harnois

"It's wonderful she can express herself through her paintings, because she's such a beautiful person," the Vermillion woman says. "I'm just so proud of her and of

Saturday.

what she's been able to do." An easel designed specifically for Harnois adjusts in ways her body cannot, putting the canvas within reach. Her art assistant, Jo Loveland, mixes paints and fits brushes onto one end of a metal shaft, then places the other end, a plastic-coated guard, into Harnois' mouth.

"I'm here, too, to offer advice when she needs it," Loveland says. "And to give her a hard time. She

more than gets hers back." Speaking is work for Harnois. It demands she focus on less cooperative muscles and wrestle with vocal cords. Her arms, her hands, sometimes even her neck jump when she wants them stilled.

"My pump helps," she says. The pump is a surgically implanted system that feeds medication directly to her spinal cord.

The medication eases her muscle contractions and gives her more freedom of movement and fine motor control.

In the two years she's had the pump, she's made great artistic strides. And she's been able to speak for herself more often, abandoning the system that lets her string together phrases a com-

puterized voice will then recite. "Karla did type at one time, but that got harder as her spasticity worsened," her mother says. "We were worried it would get so bad she wouldn't be able to paint. But the surgery allowed her to hold on to that. The Lord did see to it she

was able to paint again." When speech is too exhausting and Harnois' muscles won't unclench, her art is more than capable of getting the message

"The more she wants to talk, the harder she strains," says Larry Hayes, an employment specialist at DakotAbilities. "The harder she strains, the more tired she gets and the harder it is to talk. It's a cycle. Once her artwork is done, it's there for everyone to see and inter-

A United Cerebral Palsy employee started Harnois' career as a form of art therapy.

"She kept encouraging us and telling us that Karla had a talent," Maryln Harnois says. "She wanted to see Karla develop that. Sometimes a person with cerebral palsy is a prisoner within. Sometimes those who are not familiar with

Artist / See 5F

Symphony sells tickets for new year

By JENNIFER SANDERSON Argus Leader

The schedule for Henry Charles Smith's final season is set, and those hoping to see him conduct will begin a mad dash for tickets this week.

Starting Monday, people can get on the ticket-buying list by calling the South Dakota Symphony Orchestra office. That's the day brochures will pop up in mailboxes, urging nonsubscribers to act fast and subscribers to hold on to a good thing.

The 1999-2000 season sold out in a matter of days last spring, and symphony Mar-

TO BUY TICKETS

Subscribers: Those with tickets for the current season can renew now through June 1. After that, they risk losing preferential seating.

Nonsubscribers: Starting at 8:30 a.m. Monday, call the symphony office at 335-7933 to get on a waiting list. New orders cannot be guaranteed until June 1, at the earliest.

The matinee series will be your best chance for season tickets.

Single-concert sales will not be available until Aug.

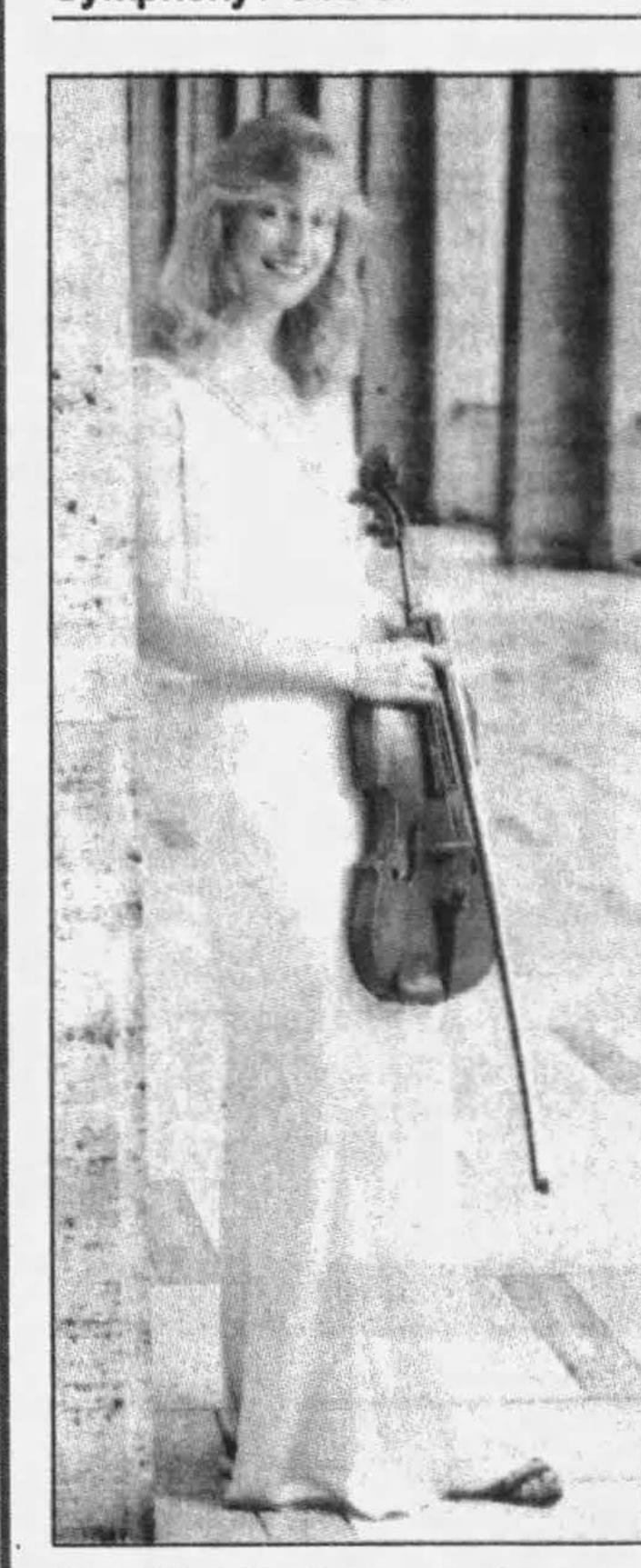
keting Coordinator Heidi Sehr expects most subscribers to renew their memberships. She says the bugs have been worked out of a system that last season sold 123 more tickets than seats available in the Washington Pavilion.

That created some ill will among ticket buyers who ended up being shut out of the process and were forced to settle for refunds. But everyone's hoping that excitement over a new season will outweigh past disappointments.

"We'd never had a season like that before," Sehr says. "This year we won't be able to guarantee any new orders until at least June 1, because that's the deadline for subscribers to renew."

Those who do so will see Smith and newly named music director Susan Haig, as well as folk, classical and pop artists. And they'll see them

Symphony / See 5F



Cynthia Phelps, principal violist with the New York Philharmonic, returns Oct. 14.



be open for the imagination at 6:30, 7 and 7:30 p.m. at the Old Courthouse Museum. Participants will get a view of the constellations and planets inside an inflatable dome. Admission is

\$1. Groups of eight or more

must register at 367-4210, ext. 0.

Thursday

Friday

band Strong Men Stoop will celebrate the release of the band's Castle," with a party at 7 p.m. at Central Baptist Church. The Unies will join in the fun as well. Admission is \$3.

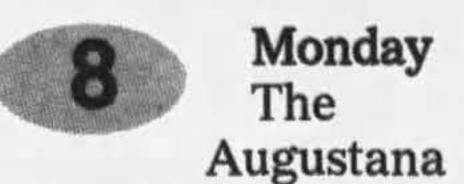
Today Outgoing conductor

Phil Scales will take his final bow with the Watertown Symphony at 4 p.m. The performance, "Director's Choice," will include Scales' favorites. The event will be in D.D. Miller Auditorium at Watertown High School. Tickets are \$8 for adults and free to students. Call 605-882-7058.

> Saturday The South Dakota African S. Phillips Ave. African violets, terrariums and

other plants and supplies

will be on sale.



Harp Trio performs at 6:30 p.m. at Dow-Rummel Village, 1000 N. Lake Ave. The performance is free, but an RSVP is required. Call 336-

Tuesday Barnes & Noble, 41st Street and Louise Avenue,

hosts Tuesday Story Hour at 10 a.m. Families and caregivers are welcome to bring their children in for a tale.

Wednesday The Singing Boys of Sioux Falls will

host the St. John's Boys' Choir for a 7:30 p.m. performance at St. Mary's Church, 2109 S. Fifth. The Minnesota group has traveled to Chicago, Kansas City, Cincinnati, Milwaukee and Des Moines.





perform. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$8 for senior citizens and \$5 for students, at the door. Discount advance tickets are Sioux Falls Master Singers available at Lewis stores.

Sunday The Sioux Falls Master Singers perform a Mother's Day concert at 2:30 p.m. at Kresge Recital Hall on the Augustana College campus, 31st Street and Grange Avenue. Soprano Susan Almjeld will



What else is going on? Read The Scene, your regional entertainment guide in Friday's Argus Leader.

Symphony: New season

Continued from 1F

more often.

concerts and other events. Symphony Executive Director Tom The 2000-2001 season is one concert larger than the present lineup. The matinee series also grows, giving patrons six performances instead of four. Those Sundayafternoon shows include repeat concerts by season headliners Emanuel Ax and Arlo Guthrie.

"The best bet for people hoping to be new subscribers is the matinee series," Sehr says. "The Saturdaynight shows will be very difficult because ticketholders will have preference, and if matinee ticketholders want to move to open spaces Saturday night, they get first choice over nonsubscribers."

Bennett says having a performance space as acoustically superb as the Great Hall has increased the symphony board's booking options. But he thinks the symphony's own, growing reputation can't be overlooked.

"We're definitely capitalizing on past successes," Bennett says. "Word gets around. The New York Philharmonic's principal violist and trombonist both will play with us this coming season. And we're capitalizing on Yo-Yo Ma with Edgar Meyer, who's collaborated with him several times."

The symphony also is branching out in its tastes. "Sophisticated Ellington: Symphony & Swing," for example, includes two vocalists and four dancers.

"These shows are really going to add a new flavor to the symphony," Sehr predicts. "But this is still very much Henry's season, and it's going to be a great one."

Tickets will be mailed in August and follow four pricing levels. Patrons will have their choice of series:

Imperial: All 10 evening concerts, including full classical and pops series, \$80 to \$325.

Classical: Six evening concerts, \$48 to \$198.

Pops: Four evening concerts,

\$36 to \$144. Matinee: Six afternoon concerts of three classical and three

pops shows, \$54 to \$208. Any available single tickets will go on sale after Aug. 15. Season openers for the classical and pops series would cost \$14 to \$50 apiece, while all other concert tickets

would cost \$8 to \$33 each. Below is a look at the 2000-2001 performers. Smith will conduct most concerts, with Haig, of the Windsor Symphony in Ontario, filling in occasionally. One or two guest conductors might make an appearance, but Sehr says those

details have yet to be worked out: ■ Sept. 9 and 10: Pianist Emanuel Ax won three Grammy awards with Yo-Yo Ma and another with Isaac Stern and Jaime Laredo. He'll perform Brahms' "Piano Concerto #2" as the classics series opener.

Sept. 30 and Oct. 1: Arlo Guthrie brings "a little bit of Woodstock" to the symphony. He made his orchestral debut this season with the Boston Pops. He'll perform "Alice's Restaurant" and his rendition of Steve Goodman's "City of New Orleans" when he opens the pops series.

Oct. 14: Cynthia Phelps, principal violist with the New York Philharmonic, returns to the Pavilion for Walton's "Viola Concerto."

Nov. 18 and 19: Anne Akiko Myers plays the Tchaikovsky "Violin Concerto" on her 1736 Guarnerius del Gesu.

Dec. 9 and 10: The symphony continues its holiday concert tradition of classics and sing-alongs, this time adding an outrageous rendition of "Twelve Days of Christmas."

Jan. 27, 2001: The Faux Four bring their "Classical Mystery Tour" to Sioux Falls. The performers, who starred in Broadway's "Beatlemania" from 1977 to 1983, play Beatles signature tunes such as "Yesterday," "Eleanor Rigby" and "All You Need Is Love."

Feb. 17: Bassist Edgar Meyer has played with Yo-Yo Ma, the Indigo Girls and James Taylor. He's also a composer of classical, jazz, pop, bluegrass, blues and country



Joseph Alessi will perform James Pugh's newly commissioned "Trombone Concerto" on March 3 and 4.

and performed at the 2000 Grammy Awards.

March 3 and 4: Joseph Alessi The new season will have an has been the New York Philharexpanded offering of 10 evening monic's principal trombonist since 1985, and his talent has inspired composers to write pieces specifi-Bennett calls it "careful growth." cally for him. In Sioux Falls, he'll perform James Pugh's newly commissioned "Trombone Concerto."

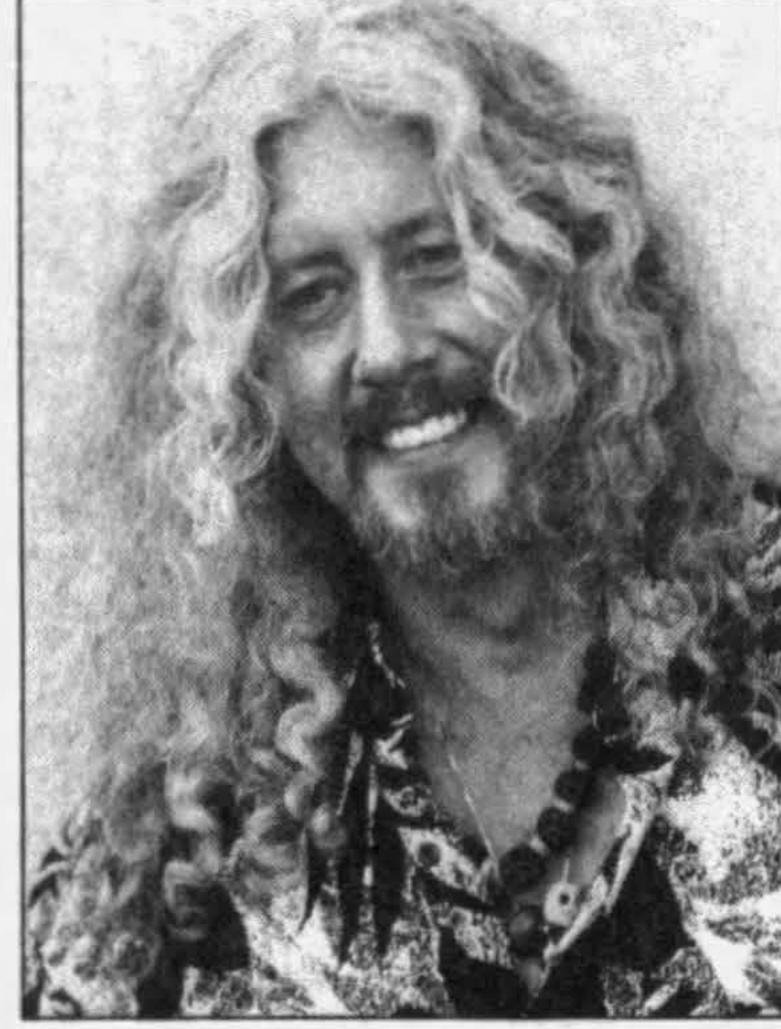
> ■ April 7 and 8: Duke Ellington's granddaughter Mercedes Ellington presents "Sophisticated Ellington: Symphony & Swing." A choreographer herself, she helped create the program danced by four performers. Last year, the show played with orchestras nationwide to celebrate the Duke's 100th birthday.

> May 5: "A Tribute to Our Maestro," a farewell of Smith's favorite pieces, marks the conductor's last concert as music director. The Dakota String Quartet and Dakota Wind Quintet are featured per-

Reach reporter Jennifer Sanderson at



Pianist Emanuel Ax will perform Brahms' "Piano Concerto #2" as the classics series opener Sept. 9 and 10.



Arlo Guthrie brings "a little bit of Woodstock" to the symphony Sept. 30 and Oct. 1.

Karla Harnois' painting of a girl in a garden is in memory of a sister.

Artist: Oils give her freedom

Continued from 1F

Karla don't always understand her, and expressing herself can be rather difficult."

It's Hayes who got Karla involved with the Association of **Mouth and Foot Painting Artists** Worldwide. The group, based in Liechtenstein, a tiny country bordering Switzerland, buys rights to disabled painters' works and markets the art. Harnois sends three paintings at a time, and she'll be paid for each.

"One of my paintings was reproduced," Harnois says. The image will be sold as individual prints, or perhaps emblazoned on greeting cards.

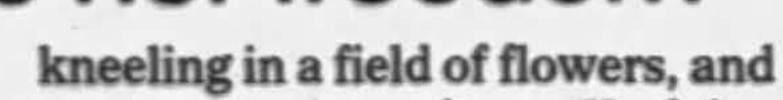
"It's an honor to be chosen," Hayes says. "She'll get a bonus, but she can't use the money for daily expenses. What she's paid goes toward supplies."

Harnois knows what she needs. She has a sharp memory and an equally sharp sense of humor that her mother says comes from growing up with four brothers and two wisecracking grandfathers. Loveland isn't kidding when she says Harnois can hold her own ground.

When asked about Hayes' job description at DakotAbilities, Harnois says "old man." She's a practical joker, too: After hearing her father, John, complain about the cold getting in through doors left open on Thanksgiving Day, Harnois bought him a blanket for Christmas.

Harnois gravitates toward the elderly and the young, in part her mother believes because Karla lost her sister to leukemia.

"Her sister came right at the very end, and Karla loved being a big sister a great deal," says Maryln, who's still reluctant to mention her youngest child's name. "I didn't know really how much until about three years ago, when I saw a beautiful painting of Karla's I'd never seen before. When I realized what it was, I was overjoyed. Here was this little girl,





Jo Loveland

it was Karla's way of expressing her love for her sister."

When Harnois began painting, she used watercolors. But once set to paper, the color embedded itself in the fiber quickly, making corrections dif-

ficult. She switched to oils when her mother found some paints in

"They're easier to use," Harnois says. "Easier to blend."

Her next goal is to break through to the acclaimed Bridge School in California. There, physically challenged and severely speech-impaired children learn through programs designed for them, not with public-school standards in mind. Harnois wrote to the school and asked how she and her art could help. She's still waiting to hear back.

Maryln Harnois isn't surprised by her daughter's wish to give back to people with disabilities.

"When there's so much boxed up inside of you, you wonder how she deals with it," Maryln Harnois says. "But she's almost always happy, and it's not for lack of understanding what's going on around her. It's that she understands all of it."

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

SUNDAY HOROSCOPE

By JOYCE JILLSON Creators Syndicate

ARIES (March 21-April 19). It seems as though everyone around you is looking for leadership and advice. Take the compliment, but resist the urge to delegate everything. The afternoon requires you to change your mind, but it saves you money.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Radiance emanates freely from you, which attracts new people to your circle. Stalled projects could gain momentum this week if you give them the proper attention. Singles meet love while exploring creative outlets.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). Poor communication skills start the day off; don't allow them to continue all day. Others have a different philosophy, but note that there is room for that, too. You can really enjoy your home this evening. Love relationship remains a mystery.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). Share the fun and playful side of your nature, and you'll be especially desirable to that one special person. Family or friends may try to dictate unreasonable terms. Use patience when establishing boundaries.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Take special care in examining any old baggage you might be carrying. Issues must be addressed in order to let go and get on with life. You have an amazing scope of vision, and can show the path to those who need your help. VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). Blessings

come disguised-a dramatic situation leads to a whirlwind romance. Someone asks to be forgiven, and it is in your best interest to do so. Time saver: Do what it takes to find out where you stand in a relationship.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Teamwork is essential, so don't take it on all by yourself Small ideas will grow and stand on their own. Big dollars come from projects begun

in the next month. Run back to that loving relationship you once took for granted.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Marriage partners deserve more attention, so take some extra care this evening. Luck bursts forth from neighbors who will save you money. Short trips inspire your creative impulses. Small family arguments turn serious.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Money comes from creativity. If you are caught in a lie, rectify this before it harms you. A family member is an ally, listen carefully to all of his or her advice. Decline invitations

that don't include your partner. CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Strangers respect you, and will offer to buy your work and ideas. Visit with a long-lost love, relative or business collaborator. Relax with a child or sibling at a sporting or community event.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Get things done early, in case an unexpected situation arises. Assert what you're willing to do to meet a deadline. Travel connects you with great news. A new domestic plan deserves your close attention.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). You accomplish much with your gentle charm. The opportunity for a fresh start is pleasing. Raise your fees now, as you're more in demand than ever. Remind family of scheduling changes, or people will have to go out of

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (May 7). You'll see fast results for what you put into motion this year, starting with a large cash return this month. Profits in July should go back into your business-by September, you are making money hand over fist. Friendships turn romantic in the early spring; singles find this is the one. Cars or homes are purchased in January. Your best signs for long-term compatibility are an Aquarius or Cancer.



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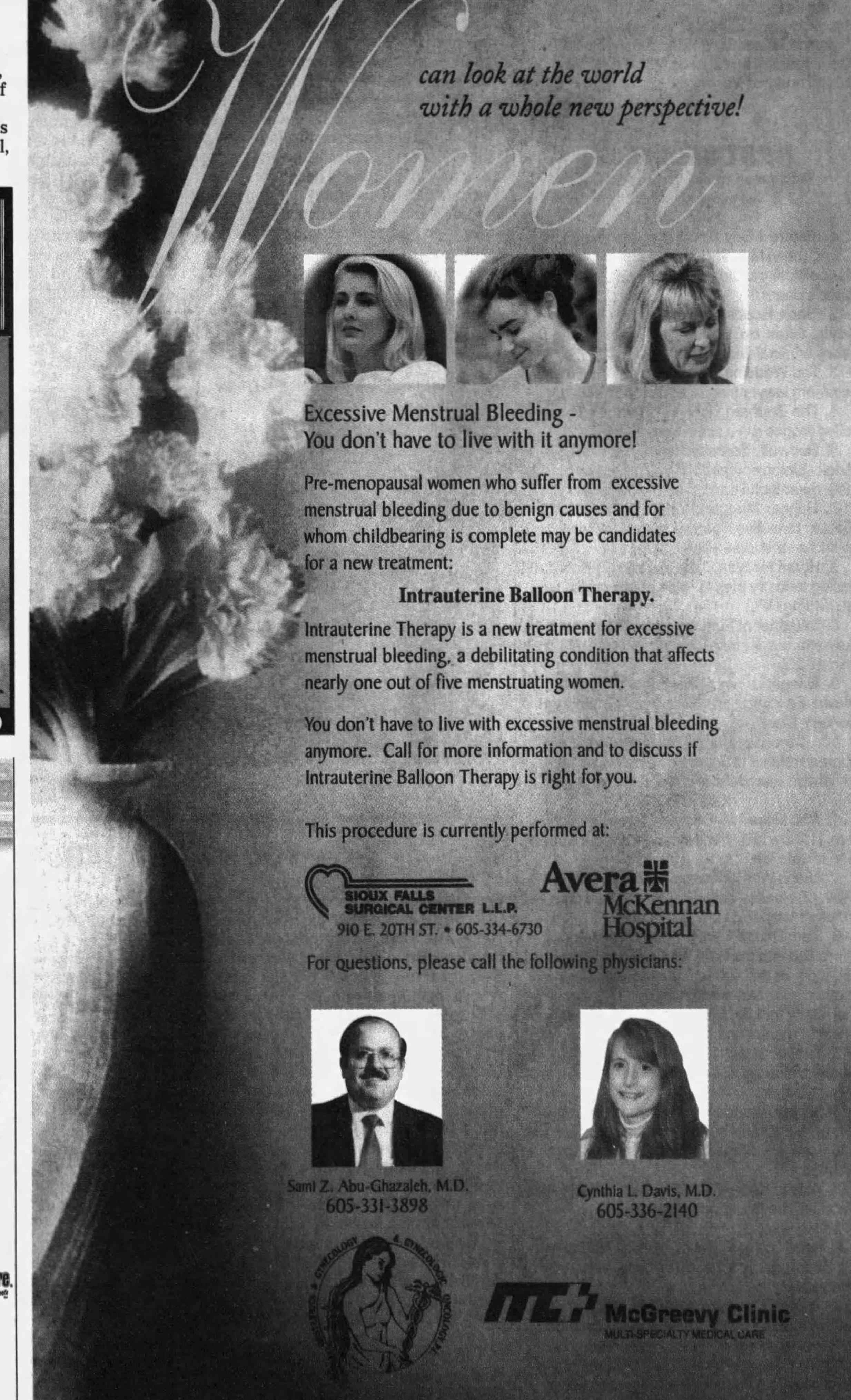
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Photographer, reporter treat artist with care

I work for Dakotabilities in Sioux Falls as an employment specialist. On May 7, the Argus Leader did a story about Karla Harnois. Dakotabilities provides assistance to Karla, who is an artist.

The Argus Leader photographer, Lloyd Cunningham, was fantastic

speech very difficult to understand,

as he worked with Karla. Karla's disability makes her

but he talked with Karla and never was impatient. He treated her as a normal person. He even took Karla's special paint brush holder in and out of her mouth when needed. He laughed and joked

of his work.

I have never seen such a caring person. I find it hard to find words to express how impressed I was with Lloyd.

with Karla and made her the center

The Argus Leader is very fortunate to have such a person working for them. If the Argus has an award for outstanding representative of the paper, I will nominate Lloyd. Jennifer Sanderson was the

reporter who did the interview and wrote the article. I was very impressed how at ease she was in talking with Karla. She asked Karla questions, rather than asking those of us who were present. With Karla's speech problems, it would have been easy for Jennifer to just ask others questions and ignore Karla.

Jennifer explained how she did not know the background of Dakotabilities and took the time to gain an understanding of our goals. She created a relaxed atmosphere for Karla and made the interview a rewarding experience.

Again, thank you for a story well done, and you can be very proud of

Lloyd and Jennifer.

-Larry R. Hayes Sioux Falls