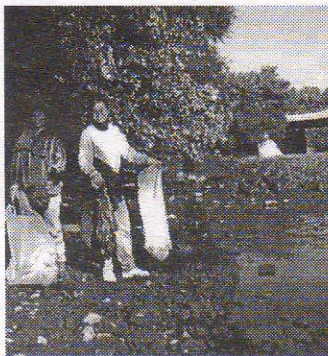
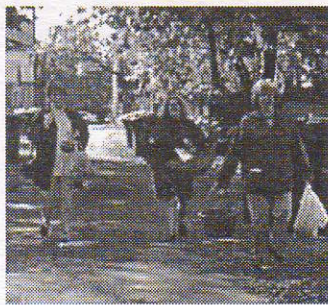


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March 2001 12/03

HARRISON WEST NEWS

A Neighborhood on the National Register of Historic Places



**NEW MEMBERS:
Join soon to be
eligible to vote
at the May
elections!
Complete the
Membership
Form on Page 5
and get in on
all the fun.**

What's it mean to become a member of the Harrison West Society?

By Keith Dimoff, President

Joining the Society doesn't mean that you agree with everyone on everything. It doesn't mean that you're committing time and energy.

Rather, joining the Harrison West Society means that you support the idea of a civic association. It means that you want a group working to strengthen our community through social events. It means that you want a group working to improve the neighborhood through advocacy.

I've truly enjoyed myself over the past year, walking through the streets on the morning of the Yard Sale, watching kids make art at the Fourth and Oregon park, seeing familiar faces at our monthly meetings, conversing at the Holiday Potluck. These occasions broaden my appreciation for our neighbors and, I believe, weave the fabric of our community.

Our meetings allow members to have input on topics such as zoning and crime. We've shown that advocacy doesn't mean rudeness, it means you want to support neighborhood improvement through building professional rapport, as we've continued to do with Battelle, Humko, and the City.

To those who participated in any of the events, from river cleanups to fixing up the park at Fourth and Oregon, from public hearings to monthly meetings, I offer my sincere gratitude.

And to those who choose to join for 2001, whether a renewal or a new member, on behalf of the all those who have benefited over the years from the work of the Harrison West Society's volunteers, we thank you.



Next Meeting: Constitution Public Art Traffic Plan

At the March 8 meeting of the Harrison West Society, we'll be voting on the proposed changes to the Society's Constitution and By-Laws. We'll also see for the first time the traffic plan drafted by the professional planning consultant hired by the City. And we'll hear updates on our public art project and more. We'll keep it moving; last month we were done in 40 minutes! Hope to see you there!

NEXT MEETING

The Harrison West Society will meet
Thursday, March 8 at
7:30 PM
Godman Guild
321 W. Second Ave.

INSIDE

Olde House Fair
Channel 10 Covers
Harrison West
Tree Planting

HARRISON WEST SOCIETY MINUTES

February 8, 2001

By Veda Gilp for Karla Eldridge,
Secretary

The meeting began promptly at 7:30 with a quorum of voting members present, President Keith Dimoff presiding.

The minutes of the last meeting were approved.

Old Business and Committee Reports:

Treasurer's Report from John Cowin reported \$3,512.14. Veda Gilp motioned to pay the regular expenses of publishing the newsletter. Passed.

Zoning President Keith Dimoff circulated information on the Humko plan and the Italian Village model, with news that the Rezoning proposal passed the Development Commission on February 22. Now that rezoning goes to City Council for approval.

Landscaping Plan The meeting discussed the Ohio Department of Transportation Landscaping Plan for I-670 and the Spring/Sandusky Interchange.

Mary Funk motioned that the Harrison West Society write a letter to ODOT to request the suggested \$20 million landscaping plan. Passed. Everyone present was encouraged to attend the February 15 meeting on the ODOT plan.

Public Art Committee reported that it has received its \$20,000 Neighborhood Partnership Grant through the Columbus Foundation.

Constitution Committee Chair Keith Dimoff presented a formal written proposal to change the Constitution. The vote will take place at the March 8 meeting. John Cowin motioned to pay for copying and mailing the amended constitution to all the members. Passed.

Membership Committee Chair Mark Hamsher reported 25 renewals.

New Business

The City's proposed *Watercourse Protection Overlay* was discussed. Shirley Tobias motioned for a letter of support from the Society. Passed.

Olde House Fair Veda Gilp reported a call for volunteers and houses for the Fair and Tour coming up March 10 and 11.

Graffiti Discussion of increasing incidence of graffiti in our neighborhood, some of which may be gang related. Decision to highlight graffiti in March newsletter.

Ken Wightman motioned to adjourn at 8:10 P.M.. Passed.

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is the monthly publication of the Harrison West Society, Inc.

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Mary Funk 291-9545

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TREASURER

John Cowin 291-7063

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Information:

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The Harrison West News is produced by an all-volunteer staff, and while accuracy is paramount, the reader is advised the Harrison West News or the Harrison West Society, Inc., is not responsible for errors.

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Harrison West Society meets 2nd
Thursday of each month at Godman
Guild, 321 Second Avenue, 7:30 PM.

Graffiti Vandalism Hurts Everyone

Several neighbors came to the last Harrison West meeting with concerns about the increasing graffiti vandalism in the neighborhood. Who is doing it and why is less important than how we combat it.

According to the "Keep American Beautiful" *Graffiti Hurts* website, found in the more than 691,000 listings for graffiti on the internet:

1. Increased resident anxiety, economic decline and the escalation of more serious crimes results when graffiti is left unattended in communities. The fear associated with graffiti is more pervasive and damaging to communities than the number of associated criminal acts.

2. The highest rates of vandalism occur in areas with obsolete facilities, poor street lighting, overgrown lots, low community morale and very little pedestrian traffic.

3. If graffiti markings are left up for seven days, there is a 100% chance of additional graffiti in the community.

4. The National Graffiti Information Network estimated the costs of graffiti vandalism to be \$7 billion in 1994. This number has risen since.

5. Even worse, graffiti signals that no one cares. When hopeless apathy pervades communities, there is no perceived deterrence to other more serious criminal and antisocial behaviors. And the affected neighborhood experiences a fast-moving downward cycle of crime and grime.

WHAT YOU CAN DO ABOUT GRAFFITI:

1. If it's public property, call the City's Graffiti Buster, Rich Hendershot at 645-1582. The City recently tripled its graffiti removal budget and hired four graffiti removers. Rich should be able to help eradicate public property graffiti.

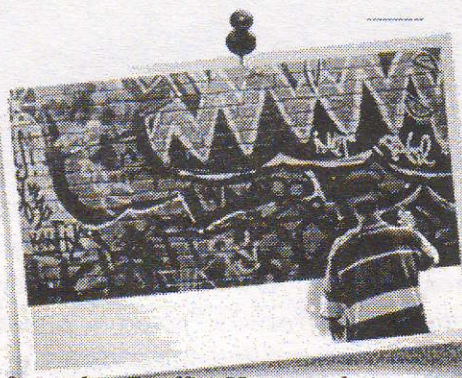
2. **Act fast.** Remove, paint over, or disguise graffiti as soon as you find it on your property. Graffiti vandals want

their work to be seen, and if you keep removing their message, they'll go somewhere else. Don't paint over the graffiti only; this just makes a more visible

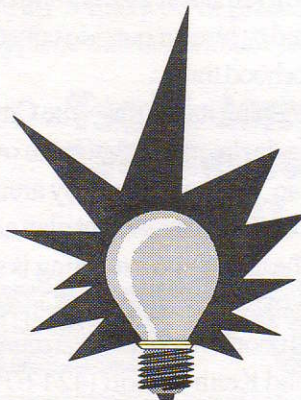
canvas for the vandals to hit again. Paint over the entire area, and keep extra paint on hand. If the area gets hit again, you'll only have to paint out the graffiti.

3. **Make it hard for graffiti vandals to damage your property.** Plant prickly shrubs and trees in front of walls and fences.

4. **Add security lights.** Graffiti vandals like to have their work spotlighted, but they don't want you or your neighbors to see them.



from the *Graffiti Hurts* website
www.graffitihurts.org



Come Plant Trees on Bike Path April 7

If it's Spring, can tree planting along the bike path be far behind? Last year the tree planting was lots of fun and visiting with neighbors. It's not hard work – big tough guys dig the holes for the big trees; the rest of us plant seedlings that don't require much of a hole.

Battelle, Harrison West, FLOW (Friends of the Lower Olentangy), the City of Columbus, the University District, and Columbus Outdoor Pursuits are cosponsoring the tree planting along the bike path south of Third Avenue on April 7 from 9am to 11:30 am, rain or shine.

We will be planting over 1,500 tree seedlings and over 100 landscape-sized trees. There will be a small cookout immediately after the tree planting.

Meet at the Battelle warehouse parking lot by the Fifth Avenue Bridge (southeast corner of Fifth Avenue and the Olentangy River) at 9am for planting guidelines and assignments.

Please bring your own shovel, dibble (planting bar), or other planting tool and work gloves. We will, however, have some extra planting bars and gloves for those volunteers that do not have planting tools or gloves.

Kids are welcome, but parents are responsible for the safety of their children. We will have some educational information for the kids about how trees help protect and improve the quality of the river.

Reasons to Join Harrison West Society #996

You get to plant trees and eat hot dogs along the bike path. And it's not even hard work.

Harrison West on Channel 10

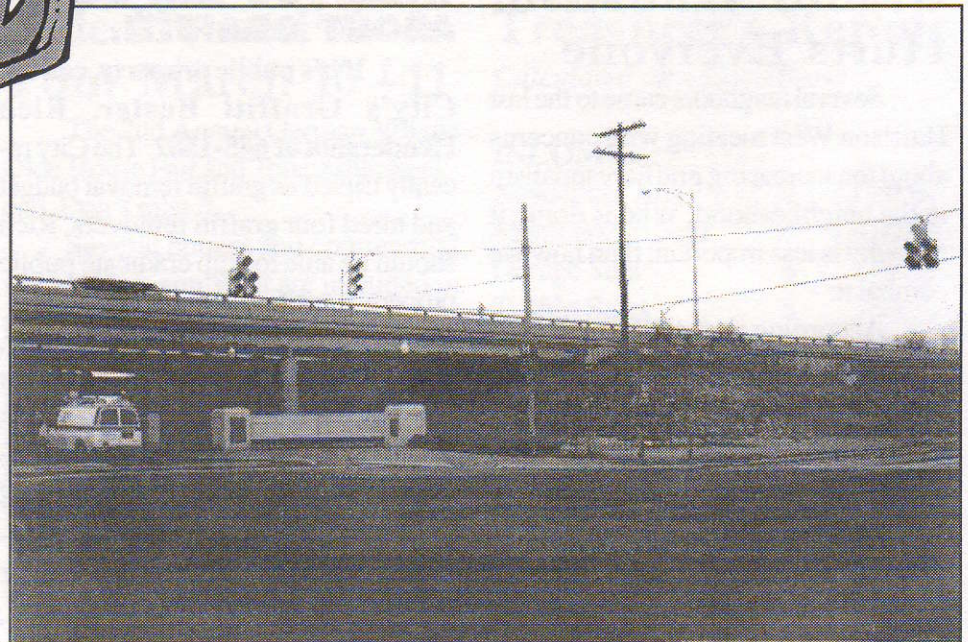
ODOT LANDSCAPING PLAN TAKES HEAT

In the wake of a public meeting that evening, Channel 10's February 15 broadcast covered the controversy over the Ohio Department of Transportation's (ODOT) plans for the freeway project bordering Harrison West.

Subtitled "Interchange Battle", the news crew reported that "More money, more trees, more confrontation was the theme as homeowners and ODOT battled over what is best for the Spring Sandusky Interchange."

The City, which is responsible for enhancements east of Neil Avenue, has stepped forward with millions of dollars and well-received plans for the eastern section of the project. However ODOT, which is responsible for the freeway west of Neil Avenue, responded to criticisms of its minimal plan by dodging the questions and passing the buck over to the City.

Harrison West residents and others pressured ODOT to provide more than grass seed and a few trees at the southern and western gateways to Harrison West— Michigan & Goodale and Third & Olentangy River Road. Instead



The southeast corner of Third Avenue and Olentangy River Road is the western gateway to Harrison West, but ODOT proposes only grass seed here in its landscaping plan. As the Channel 10 News reporter commented, this section of the freeway "could be a marquee to travelers and a welcome mat to downtown." It won't be much of a gateway with nothing more than grass as landscaping.

of chain link "vandal" fencing and plain concrete, advocates pointed to the standard set by the City's plans for attractive railings and architecturally-designed bridges.

As the Channel 10 crew reported, the freeway "could be a marquee to

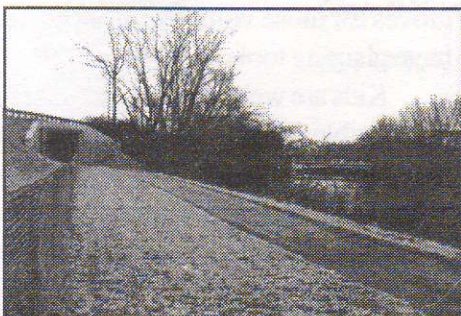
travelers and a welcome mat to downtown." But at the meeting ODOT refused to offer more than the minimum required by law and repeatedly side-stepped requests for more appealing entrances to the neighborhood.

Traffic Plan to be Unveiled

Over a year ago, City Council passed a resolution to respond to the concerns of the Harrison West Society and others regarding the impact of the Spring-Sandusky Interchange on neighborhood traffic patterns. In addition to promising that speed limits will remain at 25 mph and on-street parking will not be removed, City Council promised to hire an outside consultant to look at the impacts of the interchange on neighborhood traffic.

Keeping its promise, the City hired the nationally-recognized planning firm of Glattig-Jackson to develop an overall traffic management plan for Harrison West, Victorian Village and nearby areas. Glattig-Jackson is expected to unveil its draft overall traffic management plan at the next meeting of the City's Traffic Task Force.

The task force's meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 7, at 5:30 PM at the Westminster-Thurber auditorium at 717 Neil Avenue and is open to the public. The Harrison West Society's representatives to the task force are David Butler (421-7157) and Keith Dimoff (424-6798).



ODOT proposes only grass seed and the chain link fence here, no trees, along the bike path and the Olentangy River adjacent to Harrison West (Third Avenue bridge in the distance).

Time to Join Harrison West Society

It's time to renew your membership in the Harrison West Society. What do you get out of it? You get the privilege of belonging to an organization that tirelessly works to make your neighborhood better. You get to belong to an organization that's helping make Harrison West property values the fastest-growing in the City. And you get to belong to an organization that throws a really good party. Watch the *Harrison West News* for other good reasons to join the Harrison West Society.

Harrison West Society Membership

SIGN ME UP!

Please complete this form and mail it, along with your appropriate contribution to Harrison West Society, Membership Committee, 344 W. Fourth Avenue, Columbus, Ohio 43201. Membership dues are paid each calendar year.

NAME _____

PHONE _____

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ADDRESS _____

Select one: _____ 2001 Membership Year

- Individual \$10
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Homesharing brings companionship and security to those in need of some help, and allows them to remain living at home. If you know of someone in need of assistance in their home, or of someone who might be willing to perform chores in order to receive inexpensive housing, please contact Mary Ellen or Lori at 221-4663 with the Northwest Counseling Services' Older Adult Program.

Crime Hits Hard

Between January 14 and 17, burglars hit Harrison, Bradley, Michigan, and Oregon. During January, the neighborhood also suffered four theft from automobile, a malicious destruction, and theft from a building on West First Avenue.

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Mid Town Parents and Kids March Fun Date

Mid Town Parents and Kids (MPK) is hosting a Fun Date at the Thompson Recreation Center on Saturday, March 17th (St. Patrick's Day) from 10-12. The event is geared toward families with children ages 0-5 years to allow parents with same-aged children in the neighborhood to get acquainted.

Mike Phillips, from the Thompson Recreation Center, will be available to talk with the parents to find out what type of services area families would enjoy and what times/days are most desirable. This is a good opportunity for area families to attend and express their interests and desires so the center can better serve the neighborhood.

Thanks to Joe Spinelli, we will be serving bagels from Manhattan Bagel and juice as a snack. Please join MPK for a morning of fun and don't forget to wear green! For information about our organization, please contact Sabrina Bobrow at 297-1152 or by e-mail at sabrina@kilcup.org.

Olde House Fair & Tour March 10 -11

The 2nd Annual German Village Olde House Fair and Tour is this weekend. Don't miss it.

Several houses and commercial sites in Harrison West are included in the Tour.

This is a weekend of exhibits and training opportunities for residents from throughout Central Ohio interested in restoration and renovation projects. This year's event will be held March 10 & 11 at the Schiller Recreation Center at Schiller Park in German Village.

The Neighborhood Preservation Tour will feature a total of 12-14 sites during its 2 day run. Only ticket holders to the Old House Fair can take the self-guided tour. Sites in Harrison West, German Village, Old Oaks, Olde Towne, Bryden Road, East Town Street, Victorian Village, and Italian Village will be included.

For more information, call the German Village Society at 221-8888.

Treasurer's Report

Calculated on a Cash Basis

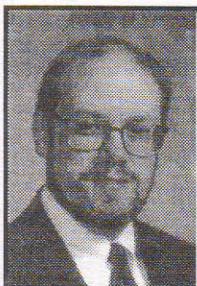
INCOME:

Newsletter Ads	\$ 3,020.00
Membership Fees	\$ 1,460.00
Garage Sale	\$ 145.00
T-Shirt Sales	\$ 780.80
Interest	\$ 47.10
	\$ 5,452.90

EXPENDITURES

Newsletter Printing	\$ 4,197.95
Garage Sale	\$ 33.32
Art Project	\$ 2,450.50
Holiday Party	\$ 100.79
Membership	\$ 75.40
Miscellaneous	\$ 133.55
	\$ 6,991.51
Gain / (Loss)	\$ (1,538.61)

Cash on Hand 12/31/99	\$ 5,812.41
2000 Income	\$ (1,538.61)
Balance as of 12/31/00	\$ 4,273.80



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1079 Pennsylvania	\$172,500	1089 Oregon	\$205,900	1162 Pennsylvania	\$167,950
1088 Oregon	\$175,900	548 W. 2nd	\$ 99,900	544 W. 1st	\$ 85,000
592 Bradley	\$179,900	1057 Michigan	\$115,900	1093 Oregon	\$206,600
				479 W. 4th	\$ 84,900

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Eadie Gourmet Eats Out at Buca di Beppo

(Continued from Page 8)

Waterglasses of wine. Tubs of salad. Yards of pizza. Floods of red sauce. Wading pools of tiramisu. Everywhere you look fragile waitresses stagger under the burden of pasta mounded up on platters the size of garbage can lids.

It's an experience. You should do it once, just to be able to say you did. And it's fun, in an excessive, *Jurassic Park* movie set spectacular kind of way.

Now, for the food. It's OK. Not great, definitely not challenging or imaginative, but good enough. After all, you're here for the experience.

Unless you have more than six people, don't bother with salad. For one thing, it's ordinary. For another, even the small salad is too big for two or three people if they plan to eat anything else. It wasn't bad -- Romaine, red onion, standard Italian dressing. All

the salads are built on the same base; only the toppings change.

The six of us ordered three entrees: Linguini Frutti di Mare, baked ravioli, and Chicken Marsala. We had two largish young men with us, so this was enough.

The Linguini was satisfactory, a healthy serving of calamari atop the requisite two pounds of pasta on a huge platter ringed with steamed mussels. Somewhere in all that pasta were tiny, and I mean baby-fingernail-size, clams. When a menu promises me "mussels, clams and calamari," I expect clams I can see. We finally determined that those tiny dark pieces we had been discarding as mud vein were in actuality the clams. The steamed mussels were fine -- fresh, flavorful, tender.

The baked ravioli was a special of the day, and not bad. Naturally, the ravioli were the size of computer zip disks, stuffed with ricotta and goat cheese, and swimming in marinara sauce. Pint-size shakers of hot pepper flakes and parmesan cheese aided the flavor.

Chicken Marsala was a disappointment. The Marsala is very sweet, so the sweetness is all you taste. The mushrooms are quartered giants, and haven't soaked up much of the chicken and Marsala flavors. This dish, which should be a toothsome, subtle blend of complex flavors was flat. In the great opera of Italian cooking, Buca di Beppo's Chicken Marsala is a kazoo riff.

A word about wine -- don't. Even the server warned us against the house wine! She said it came from a box. The markups are very nearly outrageous on a wine list that is very, very ordinary. You can order Chianti in straw-wrapped jugs, and you can be sure it hasn't been

extended with bull blood, a very nasty practice from the distant past, but that's all I can say for it.

We were celebrating a birthday, after all, so we ordered a liter and a half of the Buca di Beppo-bottled Chianti. It was not much of a wine, and, at \$35, vastly overpriced, considering that one can purchase a very acceptable Rosemont Shiraz Cabernet at the Big Bear for \$7.99.

With birthday cake waiting us at home, we passed on dessert. They are just as outrageously huge as everything else, so be prepared.

All in all, we had a fun time at Buca di Beppo. By the time we left, the crowd was mostly Blue Jackets fans, and everyone was geared up for a good time. Climbing up the stairs from the packed, noisy restaurant and crossing a people-thronged plaza made us feel as if we were in a big city.

We went home to Rosemary's Red Velvet Cake with cooked cream icing. Incredible!

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Eadie Gourmet Eats Out at Buca di Beppo

by Veda Gilp

Ever since it opened, I've wanted to go to Buca di Beppo. This is the basement restaurant at 343 N. Front Street around which the Arena District was built. Several weeks ago, I finally made it there with five other birthday revelers. Here are my big tips about Buca di Beppo – go early and park in the Nationwide garage just to the south.

Go early, because Buca di Beppo doesn't take reservations, and they're really bad about seating people who've been promised a table. After 5:30 on Saturday, the wait can get to be hours long, and frankly, folks, the food isn't worth it.

If you park in the Nationwide garage, ask the hostess for a signed business card and present this and your food receipt to the parking lot attendant to get \$5 of your \$10 parking fee back. Of course, this usually means a trek through the garage if there is an event at the arena (and when isn't there?), so you may not find it worth the hassle.

As for the food, if you want good Italian, try Moretti's, Trattoria Roma, La Tavola, and LaPlaiia. Buca di Beppo is all about the event, not the flavor.

Buca di Beppo's claim to fame is ENORMOUS platters of food, Italian pictures, 50's and 60's kitch, and Italian opera at the peak of the decibel scale. And Pope pictures. Lots of Pope pictures.

As the platters come from the kitchen, everyone oohs and aahs over how big they are. The servers brag that the regular spaghetti and meatball is two pounds of spaghetti with a one pound meatball.

(Continued on Page 7)

Harrison West News
996 Pennsylvania Avenue
Columbus, Ohio 43201

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HARRISON WEST NEWS

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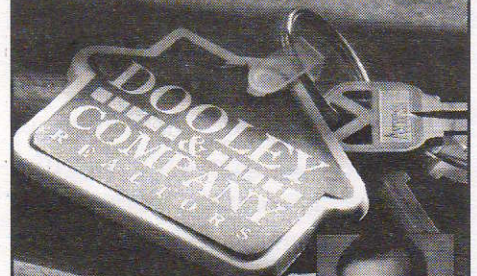
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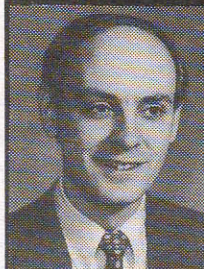
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