

[Jobs](#) [Search](#) | [List](#) [Back to Home](#) >

Thursday, Jun 10, 2004

[Cars](#) [Buy](#) | [Sell](#)[Homes](#) [Buy](#) | [Sell](#)[Apts.](#) [Search](#) | [List](#) [email this](#)  [print this](#)

Posted on Wed, Jun. 09, 2004

Duluth NewsTribune

- [Place an Ad](#)
- [Subscribe](#) | [Services](#)
- [Newspaper ads](#)

[News](#)

- [Breaking News](#)
- [Local](#)
- [Nation](#)
- [Northland communities](#)
- [Obituaries](#)
- [Weather](#)
- [Weird news](#)

[Discussion boards](#)[Opinion](#)[Sports](#)

- [Fantasy Sports](#)
- [Colleges](#)
- [High Schools](#)
- [Outdoors](#)
- [Timberwolves](#)
- [Twins](#)

[Business](#)[Entertainment](#)

- [The Wave](#)
- [Movies](#)
- [Comics & Games](#)
- [Music](#)

[Living](#)

- [Education](#)
- [Health](#)
- [Food](#)
- [Home](#)

[Shopping](#)

- [Classifieds](#)

Minnesota Editorial Roundup

Associated Press

Here are some excerpts from recent editorials that appeared in Minnesota newspapers.

Kerry's Rally

If presumptive Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry's rally last week proved anything, it proved he wants the veteran vote.

Holding the rally two days before the 60th anniversary of the D-Day invasion, Kerry had a slew of veterans and old war buddies as supporters, including former Georgia Sen. Max Cleland. Unfortunately, the veteran message has little impact among university students.

Kerry's rally did not give a clear reason why college students, in particular, should vote for him. Despite being in the heart of campus, Kerry's attention to student issues lasted half a sentence. Kerry did not once mention his innovative "Service for College" plan.

This board endorsed Kerry's "Service for College" plan, and it is worth mentioning again. The program would remedy many problems by offering tuition to students in exchange for service to communities in need, at the same time making banks compete, ensuring the lowest possible interest rates on college loans.

It was a shame Kerry did not take the time to inform university students that the plan exists. The event focused on Kerry's record as a veteran and supporting veterans, which is solid compared to President George W. Bush's suspicious armed service record and penchant for cutting veteran's benefits.

It seems likely the presidential election will again ignore young people and students, courting instead soccer moms, NASCAR dads, veterans and other groups. Political conventional wisdom says politicians do not seek the youth vote because young people do not, in fact, vote.

Perhaps this analysis has it backward - many youth might not vote because politicians give them no reason to. But students must still fulfill their civic responsibility. There are many important issues affecting young people, both now and in the future, even if politicians fail to properly discuss them.

_ The Minnesota Daily, Tuesday, June 8

Special Session

Last week, state Rep. Marty Seifert said he will push for two bills to cut back on the amount of time the Legislature meets in session. But it may be a fruitless gesture if there aren't changes in the way lawmakers themselves do their jobs.

Seifert, R-Marshall, is frustrated that the 2004 session turned into a long, unproductive session one in which many major issues were left unfinished. We share that frustration, but not necessarily Seifert's solution to it.

Seifert wants a bill that would either shut down the Legislature every other year, or dramatically scale back

- [Grocery coupons](#)
- [Newspaper Ads](#)
- [Jobs](#)
- [Cars](#)
- [Homes](#)
- [Archives](#)
- [Subscriptions](#)
- [Contact Us](#)
- [Aquarium Cam](#)

[Weather](#)

Duluth +56 +46

Minneapolis/St. Paul +68 +60

Kansas City +86 +70

[Local Events](#)

[Yellow Pages](#)

[Discussion Boards](#)

[Maps & Directions](#)

**NEWSPAPER ADS
ONLINE**

Shop through selected print ads now!

• [Click here for recent ads](#)

Free Sample of Home Delivery

Try the convenience of home delivery!

• [Click here to start your sample](#)

Updated Thursday, Jun 10, 2004

• [At Least 20 Killed in Pakistan Clashes](#) - 08:57 AM EDT

• [Foreign Fighters Target Iraq Oil Industry](#) - 08:56 AM EDT

• [Official: Assassination Suspects Detained](#) - 08:51 AM EDT

• [Waves of Mourners Honor Reagan in D.C.](#) - 08:49 AM EDT

the amount of time lawmakers meet in St. Paul. He bases his argument partly, of course, on the lack of action in this session.

... Lawmakers are meeting longer and getting less done so what's the point of even wasting taxpayer money by bringing them into session when they don't even seem to see the need? That is a compelling point. Yet, the larger question should be this: What has changed in the last 10 to 20 years to cause the unproductive legislative sessions?

We need to explore that change to learn more about why there is gridlock today. To us, the answer is fairly obvious: There's much more partisan acrimony today, and much less willingness to have constructive conversations and meetings that drive toward compromise.

This true around the country, of course, but it is galling to see it in a Minnesota Legislature that was once considered one of the very best in the nation. The current Legislature is one built on posturing and finger-pointing, not concern for the greater good of the state.

... If lawmakers can't get along, can't deal with pressing issues and can't promise that things will improve, why should voters bother re-electing any incumbent member of the Legislature, they asked. Things ARE different than they were a generation or two ago.

... Before we fully pounce on the idea of cutting back on legislative sessions, let's tackle the real root of the problem. Minnesotans deserve a Legislature full of character not complainers. There should be actual leaders, not those who think they lead simply through name-calling.

True leaders see their way toward solutions, not toward more obstacles. Maybe if the state re-established the expectation of those sorts of qualities from its legislators, we'll get just what Seifert wants anyway: Shorter sessions that actually yield results. We had them once, when there were intelligent, astute and public-minded members of the Legislature. It shouldn't be asking too much that we have lawmakers of that quality yet again.

_ Independent of Marshall, Tuesday, June 8

Polarizing Gays

A year ago Monday, New Hampshire Episcopalians elected the Rev. V. Gene Robinson, an openly gay man, as their next bishop.

On Pentecost Sunday, a group of Roman Catholic laymen tried to block gay Catholics and their supporters from receiving Holy Communion at the Cathedral of St. Paul.

Episcopalian. Catholic. United Methodist. Lutheran. Pick the denomination. It doesn't matter. There's a good chance that its believers - regardless of their sexual preference - are or have been embattled about how their faith views and treats homosexuals.

Yet this debate, which has polarized so many, rose to a bold new level in Minnesota when the self-proclaimed Ushers of the Eucharist tried to stop people from practicing their religion by blocking the aisles during communion.

That's a troubling enough action in a nation founded on the right of every person to worship as they choose.

It's compounded even more when these laymen act without the support and consent of church leaders.

And it's absolutely unfathomable when viewed in the context of forgiveness and improving one's life through worship - perhaps the two most important religious pillars of any denomination.

In that vein, it would be interesting to hear how these Ushers of the Eucharist explain preventing someone from worshipping and refusing to let sins be forgiven as something representative of their faith.

But this is not just a Catholic issue.

_ In the weeks and months after Robinson was elected, conservative groups of Episcopalians rallied to form their own network.

_ United Methodists voted last month in their national meeting to keep their ban on gay clergy members.

_ The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America next year could decide whether to ordain sexually active gays and lesbians and to authorize an official rite to bless same-sex unions.

- [Virginia Shipyard Workers Approve Contract](#) - 08:42 AM EDT
» [MORE](#)

_ And Presbyterians' 2002 national vote to ordain gays and lesbians was overturned by votes of its local presbyteries.

Clearly this touches all faiths just as it touches all people. And the reality is there are no simple answers.

So as congregations and faith communities try to move forward, it would be best to always keep in mind what brings homosexuals and their opponents to worship in the first place: the desire to become a better person and the knowledge that through those efforts comes forgiveness.

_ St. Cloud Times, Tuesday, June 8

St. Lawrence Seaway

Here's something for environmental and conservation groups nervous about the 30-month U.S.-Canadian study into the economic, environmental and engineering factors connected with present and future needs of the St. Lawrence Seaway to remember: It's a study, not an action plan.

Nothing should be left off the table.

At least two groups have registered their opposition to including in the study the impact of larger, deeper shipping channels and expansion of systems of locks to accommodate larger vessels.

If this is the first such study in about 50 years - and it is - every aspect researchers can think of should be included in the final report.

A spokeswoman for Great Lakes United, a coalition of groups focusing on preserving and restoring the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River ecosystems, says the group wants consideration of physical and seasonal expansion "off the table."

... A spokesman for the federation says the waterway's future should be adapted to meet the "physical and ecological confines of the Great Lakes," adding that planners should consider having oceangoing vessels load and unload at the eastern end of the Seaway system, with lakers hauling cargo from the interior to that point or returning with cargo hauled from foreign ports.

We all should let the study play itself out, but barring oceangoing vessels from the St. Lawrence Seaway is a position so extreme it is laughable, were it not a concern that it is even mentioned.

Ray Skelton, Duluth Seaway Port Authority environmental and government affairs director, says such a move would "shut the Seaway down" because of increased shipping costs incurred in transferring cargoes from vessel to vessel.

Nevertheless, the joint study begun in May 2003 should take into consideration testimony from all interests - from extreme points of view to practical recommendations on what needs to be done to sustain the existing navigation system for another 50 years, as a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers spokesman put it.

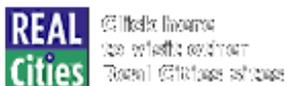
We must trust that planners conducting the study will be as concerned about environmental issues as they are about commercial impacts. They would be remiss if they did not.

In the 1950s when the Seaway was "built" (it formally opened in 1959) the environmental movement in the United States and Canada was in its fledgling period. Now it is a welcome major force.

But that shouldn't mean no possibility of future expansion forever more, amen, nor should it mean shutting the waterway down to oceangoing traffic.

_ Duluth News Tribune, Tuesday, June 8

 [email this](#)  [print this](#)



[News](#) | [Business](#) | [Sports](#) | [Entertainment](#) | [Living](#) | [Shopping](#) | [Classifieds](#) | [Jobs](#) | [Cars](#) | [Homes](#)
[About DuluthSuperior.com](#) | [About the Real Cities Network](#) | [Terms of Use & Privacy Statement](#) | [About Knight Ridder](#) | [Copyright](#)