

U. News and Notes

Truly Magical

In an age where HIV rolls off the tongue as easily as ABC, Magic Johnson's announcement was still hard to comprehend. It hit us at U. especially hard, as the news coincided almost to the day with the arrival of our November issue, with its AIDS cover story, on campuses nationwide. Though the focus of the two stories differed, several callers on our opinion hotline linked the topics together.

"You're talking about testing doctors, which make up only a small percentage of the population," said one caller from the U. of Iowa. "But look at what happened to Magic — he didn't catch it from a doctor. I think we need to shift our focus to testing the population at large to protect everyone."

And in the words of a student at the U. of North Texas, "If it can happen to Magic, it can happen to anyone. We have to do as much as we can, and testing doctors is just a start."

Earth Watch

Keep an eye out for "The Environment," our special issue out this month. The environmental movement is one of the most active and successful on many campuses these days, and we've tried to capture the spirit of the cause and examine the issues surrounding it.

And of course, once you've read the paper, don't forget to recycle it.

Color schemes

Speaking of green, three freshmen at Berry College in Georgia were rolling in the greenbacks. Problem is, though, apparently they were rolling them off their own printing press.

It seems their scheme came to an end when they allegedly were caught passing the \$20 bills at a local convenience store and fast-food Mexican restaurant. If they were going to go to all that trouble, the three students could have at least used the money to pay for tuition, not tacos.

Round and Round

And while we're still on this green kick, let's talk about the putting variety. Eric Freeman, a student at Northwestern U., holds the distinction of being the world's fastest golfer. Freeman played a hole of golf every minute and 40 seconds, for a grand total of 429 holes in 12 hours.

After his feat, Freeman said, "I didn't go out looking for a record to break, I just love golf."

Sure, Eric. Everyone goes out for a leisurely golf excursion armed with 392 golf balls and 50 spectators.

—Laurel Wissinger

Editor on Fellowship, *James Madison U.*

Off and running

It's a no-lose situation for students who throw their hats into local political rings

By BILL FRISCHLING

The State News, Michigan State U.

Christine Larson thought she had a good idea of what to expect when she ran for city council in Madison, Wis., last spring.

But she was wrong.

Larson, who was elected as alderperson in April, immediately was faced with working on a \$124 million city budget. For a woman who graduated last spring from the U. of Wisconsin, the experience was a rude awakening.

"I still haven't gotten over the effects of it," said Larson, now a graduate student at UW. "I had attended council meetings and knew basically what to expect, but I didn't know about everything that went on backstage."

Larson was one of many students who threw their hats into the local political ring in college towns, as students at Michigan State U., Bowling Green State U., Pennsylvania State U. and other schools tried to break into borough, town and city councils. Though students often make up a substantial portion of the population in these towns, the governing bodies usually are dominated by permanent residents.

Scott Ziance, a junior at Bowling Green, wet his political feet in campus politics before venturing out into the city council elections this fall. He wanted to try his hand at a "higher level" of government, and will get his chance in January when he's sworn in to office.

Ziance said he found his welcome mat into city politics raked with other people's dirt.

"I was pretty naive when I began my campaign. I had no idea the amount of work involved and I didn't expect the way issues were going to be misrepresented," he said.

Ziance campaigned in a door-to-door manner and found a "surprisingly subtle difference" between his reception from students and permanent residents. Some students, he said, voted for him because he was a student, while some residents wouldn't for the same reason.

Now that he's won, Ziance wants to construct a "Greek village" at an abandoned Heinz factory, and plans to institute sensitivity training for the police department to attune them to student needs.

Johnson still weaves his magic at alma mater

By SUZETTE HACKNEY

The State News, Michigan State U.

The news that Earvin "Magic" Johnson had tested positive for the HIV virus shocked Andrew Wells, the Los Angeles Lakers star's former Michigan State U. roommate.

"Sometimes I find myself still disbelieving that it happened to him," Wells said. "When something like this happens to anyone, I am upset and it takes time for it to sink in — but because this is Earvin, it is just devastating."

Although Johnson's basketball career is over, his new life is just beginning, said Wells, who now serves as director of intramural sports at MSU. Wells also believes that Johnson's candidness will help other people.

"Magic has thrilled millions of people on the basketball court and now it is time for him to thrill them in other ways," Wells said. "He now wants to enlighten people on how to protect themselves from the virus. He has proved himself to be a perfect role model."

Wells wasn't alone in his reaction. Like the rest of the world, MSU virtually stood still last month as Johnson announced his retirement from professional basketball because he had contracted the HIV virus.

MSU basketball coach Jud Heathcote released a statement regarding Johnson, who



KYNDELL THOMPSON, THE STATE NEWS, MICHIGAN STATE U.

The agony of defeat? Despite losing his bid for a city council seat, MSU student Kris Unger smiles as he watches election returns.

Larson has been working since April to make her difference in Madison. Her first major project bloomed Oct. 28, when city bus service began in student neighborhoods. She continues to work on obtaining money for transitional housing for homeless people.

So far, Larson feels it's working out just fine. "It's a hoot," she said.

But some cities were not as receptive to student candidates. Kris Unger, an senior at MSU who, along with Joe Derhake, ran a write-in campaign for the East Lansing City Council, found permanent residents favored non-student candidates.

"They did not like us," Unger said. "They saw us as a threat. They thought we would take over their backyard and pave it over."

Unger finished the election with less than 900 votes, a showing he said was disappointing because of the low student voter turnout.

Nichol Barlett, a senior at Penn State who ran unsuccessfully for Borough Council in State College, said many students weren't aware that they could vote only in their designated precincts. "That's one of those real-world things you're supposed to know," she said.

But coming in last does not always mean a total loss. Unger, who finished eighth in a field of eight, believes the entire election process "was a great learning experience." And now that it's over, "I can start focusing on schoolwork again."



COURTESY OF MICHIGAN STATE U. SPORTS INFORMATION

Magic Johnson's announcement stunned fans at Michigan State U., his alma mater.

he coached for the '77-78 and '78-79 seasons.

"Like all of Earvin's friends and basketball fans everywhere, I'm shocked, devastated and concerned," Heathcote said. "Earvin Johnson was not only the greatest basketball player that I've ever coached, but he was the greatest competitor and winner that I ever coached."

Student reaction was supportive toward one of the school's most famous alumni.

"Magic is the nation's hero, but he is our

brother and friend," said MSU senior Candy McCrary. "Because he went to our school, we have a special bond with him. Michigan State University is behind him."

MSU sophomore Sherree Tolbert said she is more proud of Johnson than ever before.

"I have always been a fan of Magic's, but now I really respect him," Tolbert said. "He was definitely brave to come out and admit he had the virus."

Tolbert said Johnson's announcement heightened AIDS awareness.

"Magic came out the next day and told us he had the virus," Tolbert said. "Other celebrities waited until they were almost dead or died before the truth came out. It was important for him to make the announcement because he is a heterosexual... Maybe [other Americans] will begin to think, 'Wow, this can happen to me too.'"

MSU freshman Rob Turner said although he almost cried when Johnson made his announcement, he was happy that his "big brother" was handling it well.

"He's like a big brother to me — he's like a big brother to anyone who has ever played or watched basketball," Turner said. "I'm sorry that I won't see him play anymore, but by making this announcement it just proves that he's a class act all the way through."