Gallagher from page A1

Group management team for

Group management toam for soveral years as an seistant managing editor. His promotion to managing editor the promotion to managing editor — the top spot in the editorial department — is well-deserved. "Be sure to read Hugh's perconal column in today's Farmington Observer on Page 13-A. His deep respect for readers and community journalism is told in his own words." Gallagher has been with the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers for 17 years.

"I'm happy to be moving into such a challenging and exciting position," Gallagher said. "I believe The Observer Newspapers are among the best community papers in the country and I lock forward to working with a telented staff in centing the services." uing and expanding on that rich tradition."

rich tradition."
Gallagher joins an Observer Group management team comprised of Peg Knoespel, retail adverticing manager; Mark Warren, circulation director

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and Larry Golger, circulation

He previously was employed at the Lorain Journal in L ain, Ohio, The Albuquerque Journal in Albuquerque, N.M. and Henry Ford Museum and Greenfield Village.

Gallegher, 51, and his wife, Debbie, a librarian with the Ann Arbor District Library and the Michigan Electronic Library, live in Ann Arbor. They have two adult sons, Bean and James.

Hugh Gallagher can be reached by telephone at (734) 953-2149, by email at hgallagher@oe.homecomm.net by fax at (734) 591-7279 or mail at the Observer Newspapers. 36251 Schooleraft, Livonia, Mich. 48150.

> ONE YEAR SAME AS CASH



Highlight: Kristi stands at

A Midwest

Tradition

She makes Gump-like trek

BY HEATHER NEEDHAM STAVY WRITER

BY HEATHER NEEDIAM
BY HEATHER Olding it."

"I just felt like doing it."

That was Christic Ploski's answer when asked why she decided to take a 4,000 mile trek cross country on her touring bike, accompanied by five people she had met on the Internet.

"I just wanted to see the country and meet people," she said. Plans for the bike trip were five years in the making. States she rode through included California, Novada, Utah, Colorado, Kansas, Missouri, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, West Virginia, Maryland and Virginia. She logged just under 4,000 miles.
"It was a "Forrest Gump' kind of thing," she added, referring to the 1994 film starring Tom Hanke. Like Ploski, Hanke' Forrest Gump character emburked on a cross-country journey.
Ploski is a 19-year-old Farmington Hils resident and Farmington High School graduate. She attended Calvary Chapel Bible College in Marietta Hot Springs, Calif. for a year and plans to transfer to either Eastern Michigan University or Oakland Community College this year.

She began her trip June 21 and ended Aug.

University or Gamma Commun.

She began her trip June 21 and ended Aug.
12. She took a 3 1/2 day trip in a bus before starting the trip. After enduring that, the blke trip was a cinet trip you could ever take, Plosk said, referring to the sleepless nights.

The blke trip, however, was very exhilarating.

It is no worst try but count over task, it said, referring to the sleepless nights.

The bike trip, however, was very exhilarating.

"We camped pretty much every night," Pleski said. Inclement weather, personal conflicts, unforgiving roads and ruckless drivers were among the biggest challenges she faced along the way. She said she logged about 80 to 85 miles daily, riding about sk to seven hours.

Some of the places she stopped included the Continental Divide, cutting through Colorado's Rocky Mountains and several Civil War battle-field sites in Maryland and Virginia.

"It was really pretty up there," Pleaki said of the Continental Divide, where she posed for a snapshot.

The beauty was not without its bite, however. "It was really rainy and we were so high up we were freezing," she said. During one spell of nasty weather, the group stopped off the side of the read to try to stay dry when serondipity visited them. Some vacationers from Kalsmazo offered them food and shelter and even let them do their laundry.

"They saw us and took pity on us," said Pleski, adding she was particularly impressed that the good Samaritans were follow Michiganians.

Personal conflicts within the group, consisting of people from across the country, eventually broke them up, with only two finishing in the nation's capital.

"They said they were going to keep going and take a different route," Pleski said of the other four.

The experience taught Pleski the importance of Chebric Giver gonetat. "The hest hiveled duds are four."



Happy to be home: Kristi Ploski, of Farm-ington Hills, logged almost 4,000 miles during a bicycle trek across the United States this summer. But now, she's back home, with her mom, Marcia Ploski.

bleyeling.
"It will freeze you," Ploski said, adding that it

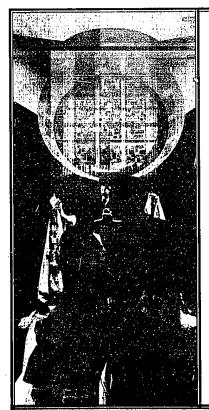
"It will freeze you," Ploski said, adding that it dries slowly. So which state had the worst bicycling conditions? Missouri, according to Ploski. The state incessant hills, lack of road shoulders and reckless drivers made for a treacherous ride.

The worst roads she dealt with were in the Missouri's Ozarks region because of the hills and lack of shoulder. She compared the hills to "Shiawasse Hill," the large hill on Shiawassee in Farmington.

"They were two times bigger and much steeper," she said.







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