Roeper grad finds the net with Archer lineup

By Judith Doner Berne Syapy Writer

At age 37, Cliff Russell's life

has already come full-circle in two respects.

As press secretary to recently ejected Mayor Dennis Archer, he is now a city of Detroit employee— Las was his father Clarence, who headed the public works depart-ment under former Mayor Roma-chas the pleasure of seeing his daughter Kristen, 8, as ahe goes through her first year at Bloom-field Hills Reeper, from which Russell graduated and twice earned all-state basketball hon-ofs.

earned all-state basketoni nonofs.
But Russell has little time these days to contemplate such things. One night he was announcing University of Michigan basketball for WWJ radio. The next day, he was fielding telephone calls and interview request on behalf of Archer from Rusself's former colleagues — the
washin.

Russell's former colleagues — un media.

-You have heard Russell. Be sides doing color commentary for U.M basketball, he was all over Detrolt and the suburbs as street reporter for WWJ. Plus he hosted the weekly half-hour Detrolt Black Journal show for Channel 56 for the past two years.

High on Roeper

The sum of those experiences

the quality and scope of his
journalism, a deep-seated love for
the city, his Roeper education—
are what got him his new job, he
believes.

"Roeper was my first experience with white people— with

people who were affluent," Russell says. "It was where I learned to get along with different types of people,"

to get along with different types of people."

Besides providing him with "an excellent education," it also atreased "caring and community service. It gave me a lot of idealism I was able to retain."

And, "it allowed me to see that the city and suburbs are in this thing together."

Roeper has fond memories of Russell, where school archives chronicle his academic, social and athletic success.

Both librarian Helen Strauss and administrator Mariann Hoag remember his student days very well.

well.
At first, "I knew he felt strange hu it it didn't take him long to get over it," says Strauss.
"He was popular. Everybody liked him." When he saw her after many years, "he picked me up and gave me a great big hug."
"He's a lot like he was then, except there's more of him," jokes Hong, who has been at Roeper for 44 years.

"I don't think they could have chosen a better person. It's like seeing your children succeed."

Asked to apply
Russell sees the job of press
secretary both as protecting the
mayor and facilitating the needs
of the media.
But it is not a job he sought.
"Someone from his (Archer's)
campaign asked me to apply."
"I jumped through all the
hoops," he says, lapsing into basketball lingo. "I understand me
dia. I can anticipate what journalists will be asking."



Like father, like daughter: Cliff Russell said he and wife Jacqueline picked Roeper for Kristen, 8, because she's "clearly Roeper material."

When he got it, "I had a week of initial exhibaration." Then, there was "a lot of self-doubt, some soul searching until I got over the fear of the unknown."

"Sports did wonderful things for me. I appreciate that much more since I'm older."

the basketball broadcasts, that "Russell is committed to helping those negative things. They let young blacks who don't have the rould continue. But I needed to make a clean break."

"I needed to which include having great parameters and "I loued heaters."

ents.
"I can remember being young and trying to aspire to some of

And, "I loved basketball so much. It would have been hard for me to stray from that discipline."

Leaders hope to free parks from state budget tyranny

Fans of the state parks have their political team together. Financially, however, they have yet to map out how to build a \$700 million endowment fund that will free state parks from de pending on the legislative budget process. "I am heartened that our Legis lature is providing the necessary

"I am heartened that our Legs-lature is providing the necessary leadership in this state parks ini-tiative," Jeey M. Spano, a mem-ber of the state Natural Resources Commission, said at a State Capi-tol news conference last week.

"I have been very concerned about the lack of general fund budget support for state parks. Ten years ago, the general fund provided 80 percent of the support and park revenues 20 percent," said Spano, of West Bloomfield Township.
"Now that's exactly reversed — 20 percent from the general fund and 80 percent from revenues. Last April, we were begging for more money. I am concerned about our fees — we're pricing people out."

Spano, the suburban township's parks and recreation direc-

tor, has been on the NRC for two years as an appointee of Gov. John Engler.

If approved by voters next November, Senate Joint Resolution E would set, 43 to million back to the land trust, put \$5 million into a parks endowment fund and serd \$5 million into the parks budget for repairs end infrastructure improvements.

See STATE PARKS, 10A

Bill would create adopt-a-park plan

Other parks bills would:

Create a State Parks Foundation for parks projects (SB 952), would be similar to college foundations and the Oakland Parks Foundation.

Allow income tax payers to use part of their refunds to buy annual state park whiche entry permits (SB 951).

Start, an edont-a-park program

(SB 951).

Start an adopt-a-park program in which businesses and civic groups could volunteer to work an projects at parks they select (no bill number yet). It would be similar to the Transportation Department's adopt a highway program.

■ Provide liability protection for volunteers (no number yet).

Deterioration

Some argue that state parks should be funded only by user fees or sold off.
While the prevailing view in Lansing is that state parks have been financially and physically

neglected, parks attendance has been on an up trend from 20 mil-lion to 25 million over the past 18 years, with some variation due 20

Refer to bill numbers if possible when writing to your state sena-tors and representatives, State Capitol, Lansing 48909.

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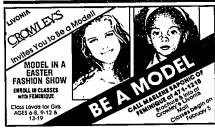
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