

## Bloom from page A1

his Jamestown Apartments residence on Grand River to report his sister's death. Two arresting officers arrived just as Bloom was finishing the call at around 10 a.m.

His sister was pronounced dead at the scene, having suffered 14 stab wounds, three of which were described as "defensive wounds" to her hands.

At that time, defense attorney Jose Rafael Fanago asked for time to evaluate Bloom's condition and whether he understood what he was doing. Following Friday's hearing, Fanago said the private physician determined his client met the state's standard for pleading insanity.

"The statute on mental health says that before somebody can introduce the defense of insanity, they must be evaluated by the state forensic board," he explained. "The doctor's preliminary findings are that Harold meets all the criteria of the insanity statute."

The law requires anyone claiming such a defense to be legally mentally ill, that is, to have a condition that can be labeled a "mental illness." Also, that mental illness must either cause the person to not understand the consequences of their actions at the time or create an inability to control their actions.

"I don't know which of those prongs Harold fell into," Fanago said.



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BREWER

In court: Harold David Bloom listens to his attorney, Jose Raphael Fanago, in 47th District Court recently.

## Davis from page A1

"It's hard for us as Americans to get out of our American skins," she said. One example of a cultural difference is in showering — many Americans are accustomed to using washcloths when showering, but in Africa, they don't use them at all.

Davis will leave Feb. 22 and return March 5. She'll spend one day in Johannesburg, South Africa, and two days in Haifa, Israel. She will fly first to Amsterdam, Netherlands, then fly to Lilongwe, Malawi's capital.

English is one of Malawi's official languages, but Davis said she expects to pick up a few phrases in Chichewa, Malawi's other language, as well.

"It's expected that many people will speak English," Davis said.

Davis, who is African American, said she shares a common bond with Africans, but culturally they're very different.

"African Americans are the richest, most economically well-off of African-rooted people in the world," she said. "We have experienced and had opportunities and education that are highly valued on the continent of Africa."

But some Africans view Americans as arrogant for the same reasons, Davis added.

"(Our wealth) creates situations at times where you are so rich and so wealthy that little things can be learning opportunities."

One of Davis' challenges in Malawi will be finding a polite way to donate the Lions Club eyeglasses to the natives.

"We have to find a way so that they're graciously given and graciously accepted," Davis said. "No human being likes to feel that they are in some way inferior to someone else."

Dick Carrell, president of the

Farmington Area Lions Club, said he gathered 60 pairs of eyeglasses for Davis' group to distribute in Malawi. The Lions are known for their fund-raisers for the visually impaired.

"(Malawi people) apparently have a hard time getting (eye) glasses," Carrell said.

Davis' service work fits in well with the Baha'i faith philosophy of helping others, he added.

"I've always been an advocate of the 'golden rule,'" Carrell said. "I guess that's what the (Baha'i) faith dictates." He was referring to the saying, "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you."

When Davis isn't traveling abroad, Davis works as president of S.E. Davis & Associates Inc., her consulting business. She consults medium- to large-sized businesses in diversity training, employee retention and other business-related issues.

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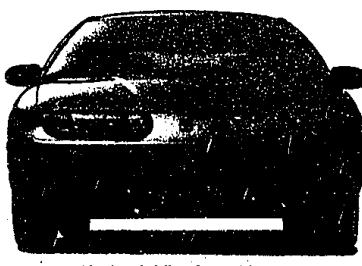
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## Abel from page A1

Howe and hockey great Bill Gadsby were among roughly 270 people who attended the funeral.

Howe recalled some valuable advice Abel gave him while they were Detroit Red Wing players in the 1940s.

"Don't drop the stick until the other guy does," Howe recalled, adding that he forgot that rule of thumb and wound up injured with stitches on his forehead during a game in the 1940s. He played with Abel for about four years.

Abel also advised Howe, "Always take a second to remember who's out there (on the ice)."

Longtime friend Budd Lynch said he wanted Abel to be remembered for the kind person he was. Lynch worked as a sports announcer for television and radio for 25 years, was public relations director for the Detroit Red Wings for 10 years and is the public address announcer at Joe Louis Arena, the Detroit Red Wings' home.

"Sid did everything in life,"

Lynch said. "He was a proud family man and most importantly, the (funeral) turnout was an amazing tribute. He touched a lot of people from all walks of life."

The Rev. David Eberhard from Detroit's Historic Trinity Church eulogized Abel. He described him as a devoted family man who enjoyed watching birds.

"He was a good and gentle

man, even as a (Detroit) Red Wings player," Eberhard said. "Number 12 was a good and gentle man in the 'Production Line.'"

Rev. David Eberhard — Eulogy

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One of Mr. Abel's last wishes was granted.

"My wish is to live long enough to see (grandson) Brent (Johnson) play in the NHL,"

Eberhard recalled Abel saying.

Johnson is a goalie with the St. Louis Blues organization, and Abel, coach and general manager of the Blues from 1971-73, was one of his biggest fans.

Eberhard said Abel enjoyed singing his wife, Gloria. When she made mistakes, he jokingly said to her, "Now you get a demerit."

One of Abel's great-granddaughters, Cydney, was named for her great-grandfather.

"So you see, folks, we still have a Sid Abel with us," Eberhard said, commenting on their similar names.

The music of Frank Sinatra,



STAFF PHOTO BY BILL BREWER

Remembering: Cowley's employees Stephanie Rose and Carol Renodin display a signed photograph and hockey stick from Sid Abel. Sid and his family were regulars at Cowley's.

and to be one of Abel's favorite singers, played before the services. The song "My Way" was played during the services.

Mr. Abel leaves behind his wife, Gloria; children Garry (Karin) and Linda Johnson; brother Don Abel; grandchildren Jeffrey, Jennifer, Meredith, Brent and Melinda; and five great-grandchildren.

## Bliss from page A1

the things that helps make the simple, civil ceremony special.

Most of the time.

"I ask (couples) whether they have personal vows," Bates said. "One man said 'just down and dirty.' I really didn't want to marry him."

While Bates is committed to the idea of weddings as a service, Farmington Mayor Bill Hartsock just isn't comfortable with the idea of uniting two people he doesn't know.

"Each mayor, I suppose, takes a different approach," he said. "I only do it for people I know, friends and acquaintances."

Hartsock struggles a little to explain why, but it all boils down to his belief that a man and woman who have any religious ties should be going to a priest, pastor or rabbi on this most important of days.

"I feel uncomfortable doing something that should have a lot of meaning to it," he said.

The advantage to having done so few marriages and having ties with the couples involved — Hartsock says he's conducted three during his terms of office — is that he knows how everything turned out.

"I'm happy to say with all three marriages I've performed, they're all still married," he said.

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