

BILL FLICK
 EDITORIAL
We've come a long way, baby - like by \$1,000s
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FLICK'S PICKS, our monthly collection of heroes and zeros, winners and sinners, picks and pans, bouquets and brickbats, as one man cheers and jeers, hurrahs and harrumphs for a midsummer's night theme:

CHEERS: For the annual fireworks shows put on by Bloomington and Normal, both nicely done, as usual.

TWO MORE BEERS: For the one year, just for the fun of it, the two cities pool their resources and together, put on one mammoth fireworks display.

TEARS: For anyone, other than ducks, farmers and your water bill, who decide to host something in the Twin Cities that ends in the four-letter f-word, which is of course, Fest.

Total number of sunny B-N weekends this summer season during which no festivals were held - all of them.

Total number of rainy B-N weekends this summer season during which there were festivals - both of them. (Twin City Fest and six weeks later, the Sugar Creek Arts Fest.)

HURRAH: To those B-N real estate firms/agents who, on the Fourth of July to help celebrate America's 216th birthday bash, placed all of those small plastic American flags in hundreds of Twin City yards.

HARRUMPH: For what happens to any good idea - an inevitable downside, the flags being no different. By July 7 or 8, they weren't appearing quite as festive and/or patriotic, many having been strewn along city ditches or the curbs of streets, either by man or Mom Nature.

CHEERS: To Kerasotes, the theater folk, for continuing to operate the College Hills \$1 Theater, a wonderful refuge for movies you certainly wouldn't pay \$5 to see but don't mind blowing only a buck on.

NO CHEERS: For inflation, as always, this month perhaps best personified by a medical bill, which we reprint here from Bloomington's Mennonite Hospital, as supplied by Eilene Bogar of Armington, who gave birth there on Dec. 29 ... in 1955.

If you can't make it out, the bill that included six days of room and board, medication, long-distance phone calls, X-rays, the delivery room charge and "care of baby" for a week's stay at the hospital amounted to \$105.87. It is higher than that now, say officials.

TRI-CHEERS: For the Twin Cities' attempt at dealing with gang-related problems head-on early-on out in the open, no holes barred.

JEERS: For one idea, proffered by a Twin City gang-task force, of holding parents accountable for their children's actions (and subject to penalty), which will only alienate those parents against the system, making matters worse, but also make institution of a penalty interesting for a judge as well. Many such cases invariably involve homes with single parents. So which parent will serve the penalties?

CHEERS: For the day an automatic teller machine (ATM for you acronym lovers) is placed in one of the most obvious (yet untouched) Twin City locations - the B-N airport.

CHEERS: For Illinois State University students' idea of possibly expanding hours of at least one B-N transit bus service past 6 p.m. (when regular Twin City mass transit ends) for ISU students, many of whom work in B-N stores or want to shop in the community but don't have cars. A check reveals other transit-served Illinois college towns, such as Champaign-Urbana, Evanston and DeKalb, offer such a service.

CHEERS: To Illinois Power Co. for donating hundreds of trees to Bloomington-Normal and other communities, as recently noted in these news pages, to "beautify parks, streets and curbs."

TEARS: Ironically, for what IP and all other power companies have become infamous for over the years, as pointed out by several readers - having tree-trimming crews severely prune and "uglify" those same potential trees along parks, streets and curbs, like a barber to Marine recruit or farmer to sheepskin.

HURRAH/HARRUMPH: For Dan Quayle, who's brought to the fore an interesting fact - he can still spell better than most of the people in charge of spelling out messages or lunch specials on outdoor business marquees or those portable business