

# 1000 Minnesota's Smartest People

**The brainiest of the brainy in the brainpower state.**

It wasn't a bad idea that Rudy Perpich had, back in the 1980s.

He wanted to make Minnesota the "Brainpower" state because, as he put it, "The most powerful force in the world is the spark of a creative idea." And, indeed, it has been ideas that transformed American cities, states and even the country itself. Take a look

at Hollywood today, or Silicon Valley, both of which were built on the power of ideas and creativity. And, were it not for the Crosbys and the Pillsburys, the Daytons and the McKnights—men and women with vision and ideas—Minneapolis might well be that proverb-

ial cold Omaha.

Minnesota has had a long history of appreciating and supporting smart people: we nurtured Fitzgerald and Keillor, Senators Eugene McCarthy and Hubert Humphrey, the brothers Mayo and Sister Kenney, Dominick

Argento and Prince. The University of Minnesota is only one of a number of important colleges in the state, and they are well supported, as are most all our schools, at whatever level. Our state's most important crop is smart people and we do a good job with it. Below, our paeon to smart people in Minnesota.

**Elmer L. Andersen**

*Former Governor, State of Minnesota*

it was a great gift to me. I had time for all my other ambitions and

**Tony Bouza**

*Former Mayor*

# Smart People Married to Smart People

- **John Stanoch/Ruth Stanoch.** John, for nine years a judge in Hennepin County District Court, is now chief deputy attorney general for public protection. Ruth headed the DFL Party from 1985 until 1990, the youngest party head in state history. She's now the vice president of corporate communications at West Group.
- **Paul Ogren/Sandra Gardebring.** Recently appointed vice president of institutional relations at the University of Minnesota, Sandra Gardebring sat on the Minnesota Supreme Court for seven years. Paul Ogren's younger years took him through Haight-Ashbury; Loyola Marymount University; an Israeli kibbutz; and St. Andrew's Priory, a Benedictine monastery in the Mojave Desert. As a state representative (1980-92), he chaired the House Tax Committee and the Health and Human

Services Committee and penned several key pieces of legislation, including the Motor/Voter Act, which distributes voter registration forms with state and local forms.

- **Jack Tunheim/Kathy Tunheim.** Now a federal judge, Jack Tunheim was one of the best legal minds in Attorney General Humphrey's office, the staffer Humphrey turned to whenever a case needed to be argued before the U.S. Supreme Court. Kathy Tunheim runs the very political (and successful) public relations firm of Tunheim Santrizos.
- **Don Fraser/Arvonne Fraser.** He's the former mayor of Minneapolis; she's the fighter for women's rights all across the globe.
- **Deborah Howell/C. Peter McGrath**
- **Sally Pillsbury/George Pillsbury**
- **David Stanley/former U of M Regent Jean Keffeler**

**Judy Cook** headed the Minnesota Retail Merchants Association from 1989 to 1998, when she left to co-found Cook Hill Gerard Associates, Ltd., of which she's senior partner.

A self-dubbed "construction worker on the information highway," **Mike O'Connor** pioneered many developments that give Minnesotans Internet on-ramps (wireless and wired cable modems, etc.). O'Connor is currently a full-time volunteer Y2K community preparedness advocate who chairs St. Paul Mayor Norm Coleman's Y2K task force. You want to talk smart? O'Connor had the foresight to register rights for the Internet domain name "television.com".

"The political reporter in the state, bar none," according to *Law & Politics'* editor Adam Wahlberg, talking about WCCO radio's **Erik Eskola**. He's been the co-host of Channel 2's *Almanac* program since 1986.

Hennepin County District **Judge Jack Nordby's** interests range from Shakespeare and classical music to rare comic books. Nordby received full scholarships for undergraduate study and law school at Harvard University.