

Add Captain Kangaroo to the list of critics of the children's television show "Barney and Friends."

Harry Eisenberg, a former contestant on "Jeopardy!," held a news conference to announce the release of his "tell-all" book, "Inside Jeopardy!" Eisenberg was joined by

A family spokesman said the mother and father, Jan Vince, a 36-year-old computer analyst, "are both over the moon."

central Europe to hear the St. Olaf Orchestra during its international tour. On June 11, he meets King Harald of Norway during the St. Olaf Choir's tour of that country.

Metro/State news

Financial rift threatens film on homeless in state

By Jean Hopfensperger
Staff Writer

It was supposed to be Minnesota's first TV documentary about the state's homeless people — a chance for them to tell their stories and work on the production of a film.

The Metropolitan Regional Arts Council (MRAC) contributed \$7,300. Newspapers wrote articles about the plan. But nine months and 70 hours of footage later, cameras have stopped rolling on the "Homeless Home Movie."

The documentary producer is charging its fiscal agent, the Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless, with withholding funding for the film. The coalition counters that the producer engages in creative accounting: He charged a month's rent on his home to "expenses." The MRAC, which initially wanted the

coalition to return the money to the producer, is now waiting to see how a small claims court rules in June.

The dispute will go public today when producer Pat Hennessey and some advocates for the homeless picket the annual meeting of the Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless in St. Cloud.

The battle lines are drawn. At issue is the future of a film that promised to be a firsthand look at life inside the shelters, cars, bridges and abandoned buildings that are home for thousands of Minnesotans.

"They [members of the Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless] are jeopardizing a movie that will be unlike anything we've seen," said Hennessey, who had asked the coalition last year to be the fiscal agent for a one-hour documentary about homeless people and by homeless

people that he wanted to produce.

Using a fiscal agent is a practice used by thousands of Minnesota artists and other grant applicants in order to get access to grants that typically can only be earmarked for certified nonprofit agencies.

"By withholding money from the artists and homeless people producing the documentary, the coalition has flagrantly breached our fiscal-agent contract," said Hennessey.

He said he believes the coalition's true motive is that it disagrees with the film's content. Among the scenes are building takeovers by homeless people, militant acts that do not reflect the reality of most homeless peoples' lives.

Val Baertlein, project director of the Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless, denies his organization is try-

ing to censor the movie. He insists that the coalition is trying to censor some nontraditional accounting practices used by Hennessey, who also has received several thousand dollars from Marquette Bank.

Baertlein said he was concerned that the homeless people who provided the music and helped with production were not getting paid in a timely manner — one of the important features of his proposal. "To be a fiscal agent means that foundations count on us to make sure the money is not fraudulently spent," Baertlein said. "They'd hang me out to dry if they found out that the money that was supposed to go to homeless people went to pay Patrick Hennessey's rent."

Hennessey said he had "paid" a homeless man with rent in his house in lieu of wages. But he also insists that he has "complete docu-

mentation of every penny spent" on the film. However, Hennessey acknowledges that he is not paying homeless people in a timely way. But that didn't bother the coalition until recently, he said.

Baertlein also charges that Hennessey has "unilaterally" decided he wanted to make the documentary longer and to extend its deadline. Hennessey argues that that's his artistic decision, and that MRAC had approved it.

Julie Marckel, program director for MRAC, says such squabbling among grant recipients is rare. The MRAC, for example, gave \$250,000 in production-assistance grants to artists last year. This is the only one that is in jeopardy because the fiscal agent and artistic creator locked horns.

Garza to head state-funded council on Hispanics

Roy Garza has been named executive director of the state-funded Spanish-Speaking Affairs Council.

"All of my adult life has been spent in the local Chicano-Latino community, so I know the actors and I know what needs to be done," said Garza, a St. Paul resident.

A former migrant farm worker of Mexican descent, Garza worked most recently in state government as assistant to the commissioner of employee relations.

He supports a proposed change in the council's name to the Mexicano/Chicano and Latino Affairs Council, because he says it would give proper emphasis to the Mexican heritage of the majority of the state's Hispanics.

"To me, it's an issue of empowerment," he said. "We have to empower the largest Hispanic group, Mexican-Americans."

Garza said he plans to focus on problems affecting Hispanic youths, such as high poverty and school dropout rates.

In 1989, he challenged Bill Wilson for his seat on the St. Paul City Council and lost on a recount.

From 1990 to 1992 he worked for St. Paul Mayor Jim Scheibel, first as director of the department of community services, then as special assistant for health and human service policies.

The council voted unanimously last week to select Garza rather than Mario Compean of Madison, Wis.

Female, minority lawyers getting nowhere, study finds

By Jill Hodges
Staff Writer

Career advancement opportunities for female and minority lawyers in the Twin Cities remain abysmal, according to a Hennepin County Bar Association study to be released today.

Members of minority groups, who represent 2 percent of the 2,105 lawyers employed by the 23 law firms surveyed, call the Twin Cities a hostile environment — worse than other areas of the country. There are no minority lawyers in senior management positions in the largest Twin Cities law firms.

Female lawyers, whose numbers continue to grow, receive less pay and fewer promotions than their male counterparts, according to the study. Many women are leaving law firms and the profession.

For years, similar studies have reached many of the same conclu-

"Legal employers continue to insist that there is no glass ceiling problem within their organizations. Denial itself is part of the problem."

— Hennepin County Bar Association task force

sions and offered a litany of recommended cures. Yet the situation for women and minorities in the profession has changed little.

"Legal employers continue to insist that there is no glass ceiling problem within their organizations," the bar association task force concludes. "Denial itself is part of the problem."

The Glass Ceiling Task Force Report, commissioned by the bar association in October, is based on interviews with dozens of female and minority lawyers and public and private legal employers, as well as on national, state and local studies. The 11-member task force, composed of lawyers from the public and private sectors, focused on advancement and retention issues.

It concluded that discrimination continues and that lack of diversity hinders law firms' chances for success. It cited the perpetuation of stereotypes, biased evaluation systems and a lack of adequate mentoring programs for women and minorities.

While women most often face problems with retention and advancement, members of minority groups also have trouble getting hired, the task force found.

Any meaningful solution requires the commitment of senior management, the task force said. In addition, it

recommended that law firms:

■ Set aside time and money to address the situation.

■ Create a culture that invites open discussion and fosters respect.

■ Establish mentoring systems for women and minorities.

■ Overhaul evaluation criteria and set clear standards for all lawyers.

■ Provide flexible work schedules and benefits.

■ Recognize that a commitment to family and community does not indicate a lack of commitment to work.

Jarvis Jones, cochairman of the task force, said a diversity committee has been created to help employers address the problems. Members include senior managers from the area's largest law firms, he said. "We definitely have our work ahead of us, to say the least," he said.

One hurdle, Jones said, is going beyond the "Minnesota Nice" concept, or the failure to acknowledge that Minnesotans can be racist and sexist.

A minority woman told the task force, "When I moved to this legal community, I experienced discrimination five times worse than what I had seen previously. Opposing counsel are at times rude, verbally abusive and patronizing."

A minority man said, "The term 'glass ceiling' should not be used. The term implies invisible barriers, but the barriers are very visible."

A woman said, "Women are perceived much differently after the birth of a child, even though they may keep nearly the same schedule and work the same hours as before."

And the managing partner of a major firm said: "Other firms may have that problem, but we don't. From my perspective, I don't think our firm has a problem."