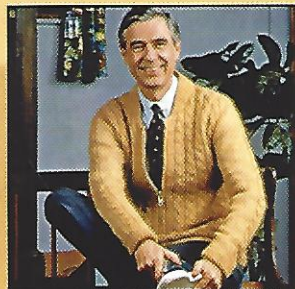


▲ Comedian Dennis Miller debuts as co-announcer on ABC's "Monday Night Football." Miller's offbeat humor gets a mixed reaction from fans, and the series earns some of the lowest ratings in its 31-year history.

▼ Paula Prince of Port Richey, Florida, wins the sixth annual Ugly Couch Contest, sponsored by a slipcover manufacturer, with her vintage '70s entry. Prince and two other contest finalists appear on ABC's "Live! With Regis" in October.



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▲ Fred Rogers, host of the children's PBS show "Mister Rogers' Neighborhood," announces he will tie his tennis shoes for the last time, when his final new episode airs in August 2001. Rogers will continue to work on Web sites, books and special museum projects.



▲ To observe society and learn about himself, New Jersey native Brett Banfe, 18, takes a one-year vow of silence. He communicates by e-mail, facial expressions and business cards.



▲ Runner Marla Runyan, who is legally blind, becomes the first U.S. Paralympian to compete in the Olympics. Runyan places 8th in the 1,500-meter run at the 2000 Summer Games in Sydney, Australia.



▲ England celebrates the 100th birthday of the Queen Mum, mother of Queen Elizabeth, in August. The beloved Mum becomes the oldest living royal in the history of the British Monarchy.



▲ In October, Slovenian climber Davo Karnicar becomes the first person to ski down Mount Everest. Karnicar's two-mile descent down the world's highest mountain takes five hours.

▼ In honor of the late cartoonist Charles M. Schulz, 101 fiberglass Snoopy statues — each in a theme wardrobe — are displayed in Schulz's hometown of St. Paul. Several are auctioned off in October to raise money for aspiring cartoonists.

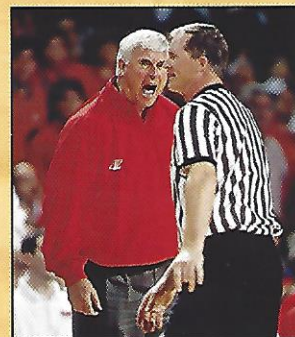


St. Paul: Pioneer Press

FLASH >>>

Video gamer Josh Griffith, 17, starts a business filling in for other gamers involved in an online roleplaying game called "Asheron's Call." Players are required to put in hours of game time to keep their online characters powerful. Busy executives pay Griffith up to \$40 an hour to play for them.

After a record 3,545 wins and \$81 million in earnings during her 19-year career, jockey Julie Krone becomes the first woman inducted into the National Racing Hall of Fame.



▲ Controversial Indiana University basketball coach Bob Knight is fired in September after allegedly violating a University-imposed code of conduct. During his 29 years at Indiana, Knight was often criticized for temper outbursts. His dismissal provokes student protest demonstrations.

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