

eclectic, inarguably gorgeous tunes representing just about every genre (and a few you didn't know existed), playing Wednesday evenings on KBEM (88.5 FM). Where else will you hear a 45-minute Indian raga sandwiched between a Matthew Sweet pop-rock stunner and an a cappella choral number? One recent show featured, among other artists, Bob Dylan, Mahalia Jackson, Cat Stevens, Ray Charles, and Malian musician Mamadou Diabate. As Duke Ellington once said, "If it sounds good, it is good." Hear, hear!

NEW BREW

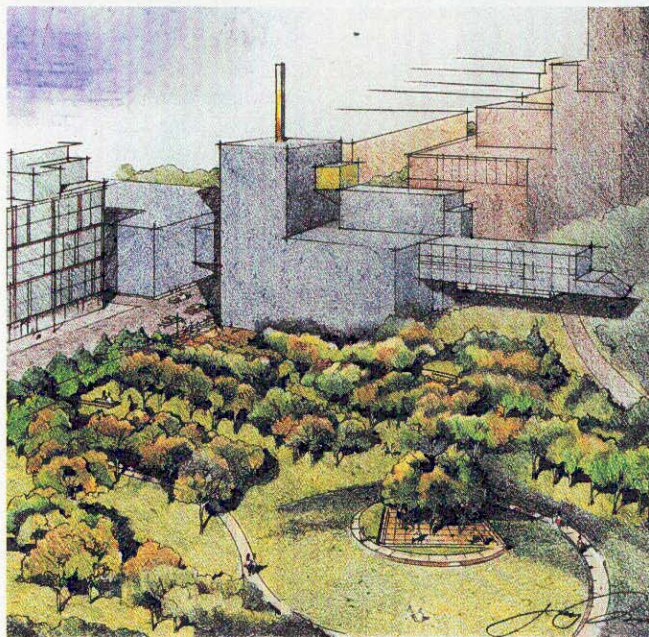
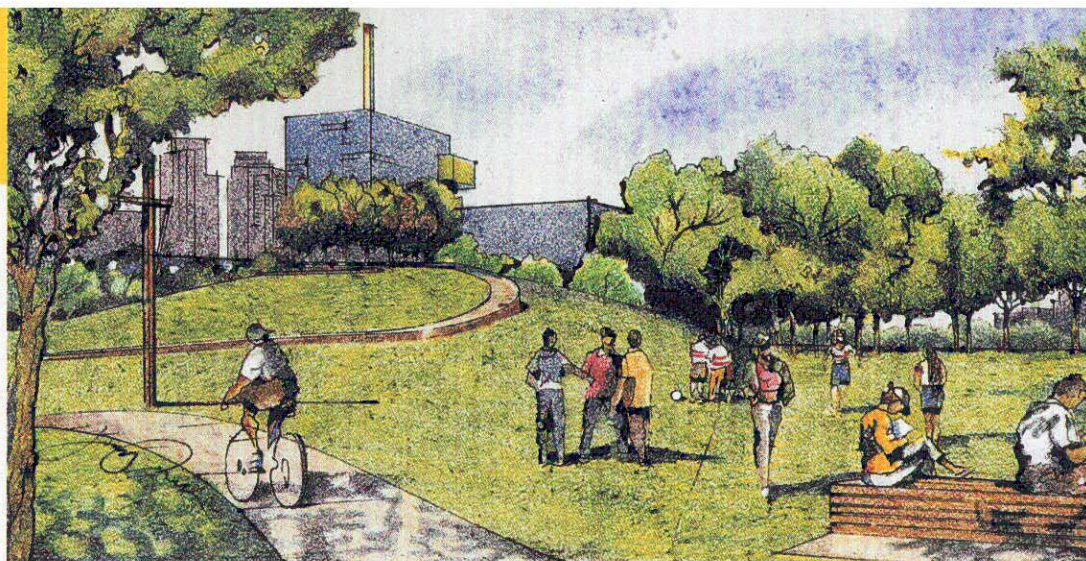
Local beer drinkers are intoxicated by **Surly Brewing**, which rolled out its first barrel just a year ago. Omar Ansari and Todd Haug, who named the company after "the anger fueled by the inability to find a good beer," are distributing their hop-heavy Furious and Bender brews to restaurants and bars all over the Twin Cities and, most recently, to liquor stores in 16-ounce cans. » *Surly Brewing Co., 4811 Dusharme Dr., Brooklyn Center, 763-535-3330, www.surlybrewing.com.*

MASQUERADE OUTFITTER

Indulge that alter-ego to the hilt. Get your over-the-top, to-the-detail outfitter at **Costume Rentals**, a warehouse-size closet containing the combined costume stock of the Guthrie Theatre and the Children's Theatre Company. » *Costume Rentals, 855 E. Hennepin Ave., Mpls., 612-375-8722, www.costumerentals.org.*

CULTURAL IMMERSION

St. Paul's Yinghua Academy, the state's only Chinese-immersion charter school, has opened its doors to 81 enthusiastic students. Ranging from kindergarteners to third graders, the students learn Mandarin Chinese language and culture along with traditional



New Urban Oasis

The Guthrie Theatre is getting a 7.5-acre side yard, thanks to a donation by former UnitedHealth CEO William McGuire. The design for **Gold Medal Park** includes four winding concrete paths that mirror the way water flows down into the Mississippi River. One will spiral from a lighted perch on a 32-foot hill. Linden trees will line a boulevard along Second Street, and maples will dot the park. An invitation to luxuriate on park benches won't be necessary, but a bell to remind you it's curtain time may be. » *Gold Medal Park, Second St. S. between Ninth and 11th avenues, Mpls.*

subjects. With plans to expand through eighth grade, Yinghua will be able to grow and welcome more students each year. » *Yinghua Academy, 1355 Pierce Butler Rte., St. Paul, 651-379-4112, www.yinghuaacademy.org.*

MINNEHAHA MOMENT

The song of Hiawatha is especially wondrous during summer

and early-fall evenings, when the **Minnehaha Falls** are illuminated and bands play in the park. » *Minnehaha Falls, 4801 Minnehaha Ave. S., Mpls., 612-230-6400, www.minneapolisparcs.org.*

EFFORTLESS ENTRÉES

Easy make-and-take dinner outlets have proliferated in recent years, but sometimes the family

chef is too busy to make even minimal meals. **Sociale** offers a ready-made option in addition to the standard assembly program. Prepared entrées (bringin' home the bacon shrimp, chicken cha cha cha), sides (to be orzo not to be), and desserts (ssweet-potato dream) are available at seven Minnesota stores; some locations even offer home delivery. » *Sociale, 6551 York Ave. S., Edina, 612-866-3200, and other metro locations, www.socialegourmet.com.*

BULL MARKET

Farmers' markets have been cropping up all over, and the latest and greatest is the **Mill City Farmers' Market**, which opened last June in a former train shed for the Washburn A Mill. All the foods—produce, meats, fish, poultry, dairy products, and ready-to-eat snacks—come from local operations that employ sustainable farming practices. The market opens for the season in early May. Come for the goods, stay for the live music and cooking demos. » *Mill City Farmers' Market, Chicago Ave. and Second St. S., Mpls., 612-341-7580, www.millcityfarmersmarket.org.*

FOOD FIGHT

When our two favorite pizza chains each opened outposts in the other's "turf," we worried: might **Punch Neapolitan Pizza** (endorsed by Meryl Streep) knock out **Pizza Nea**, or the other way around? We'd like to keep the competition coming,