



October 27, 2003

### THIS WEEK'S PROGRAM

The Start-up of a High Technology Genetics Company – Ron Burns - Northwoods  
Genotyping and Sequencing

### NEXT WEEK'S PROGRAM

Jeff Guiot, BSU Men's Basketball Coach and Mike Tower, BSU Women's Basketball  
Coach

\$485 – Headwaters Science Center

#### Important Dates to Remember

Osaka, Japan – Rotary International Conference – May  
23-26, 2004.

#### Paul Harris Banquet Scheduled

Mark your calendar for Friday, November 21 for the first annual Paul Harris Banquet to be held at the Bemidji Town and Country Club. For details, check with Chairperson Gail Quistgard.

#### Coming in November

November 10 – John Ostrem, Northwest Minnesota  
Foundation

November 17 – Boys and Girls Club of Bemidji –  
Executive Secretary

November 24 – Mike Sonnarborg, Rotary in Hawaii

#### Sympathy

Our deepest sympathy goes to Rotarian Gurnee Bridgeman and his family at the death of his wife Virginia who died on October 13.

#### Rose Sale Final

The club netted \$8,200 in our annual Rose Sale. Thanks go to all those who participated in this fund raiser.

#### Donations

\$445 – Bemidji Boys and Girls Club

\$500 – Evergreen House – for the Native Arts Class  
in Lincoln Elementary

#### Rotary Honored for Global Polio Effort

Most members of Rotary International are business people, not doctors or scientists. Yet in 1985, inspired by polio vaccine pioneer Albert Sabin, the group decided to take aim at the world's leading cause of juvenile paralysis – and help wipe it out by Rotary's centennial in 2005.

Now, with polio teetering on the brink of oblivion, Rotary is poised to reap some recognition for its role in the eradication campaign. The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation has named the service organization as the recipient of the \$1 million Gates Award for Global Health.

So far, Rotary has raised nearly \$500 million to vaccinate the world's 2 billion children, some of whom were immunized by 1 million Rotary volunteers. And Rotary has now launched a second fundraising drive, hoping to raise \$80 million of an estimated \$275 million now needed to drive the vanishing poliovirus to extinction, according to World Bank estimates. Rotary's Polio Eradication Advocacy Task Force will ask the governments of wealthy nations to make up the difference.

Victory is drawing closer. Last year, doctors worldwide reported only 480 polio cases, down from 350,000 in 1988. Polio now circulates in just 10 countries: India, Pakistan, Nigeria, Afghanistan, Niger, Somalia, Egypt, Ethiopia, Sudan and Angola.

In Angola, Rotary volunteers helped negotiate a five-day truce in the nation's smoldering civil war so that thousands of children could be vaccinated. In India, Rotary helped organize a National Vaccination Day in January that brought 150 million children to 30,000 immunization posts for Sabin's oral polio vaccine.