

Rodeo heads for final push



Oakdale's Keith Stone, a 13-year driver, returns to the company Rodeo at Mounds View May 21, where he'll push for the top prize.

Who can wear a 40-foot bus like a glove, guide it through the tightest of quarters with pinpoint rolling accuracy, and impress even the keeneast bus industry judge? On May 21, First Student will find out.

The Oakdale terminal's Keith Stone wants to be that driver. "I've pretty much got it this year," he said. "I'm going to come home with the gold." This is his third Rodeo and he's in the regular ed section. Last year, he

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BIG PICNIC WILL BE MAGICAL

First Student's Employee Appreciation Picnic is up to some new tricks, courtesy of magician David Farr.

Farr has been doing magic tricks for 18 years, which is a long time when one considers his age, 28. "It's been my only profession," he said.

Farr will be the star of the POM event (Power of Magic/Peace of Mind), which is set for June 5, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Battle Creek Regional Park in Maplewood.

The production is sure to involve First Student

does pickpocketing for entertainment. "You won't believe what happens in your hands, too."



Magician David Farr, above center left, does a trick to make sugar flow from one audience member's sleeve.



As the entertainment rolls on, the food at the First Student appreciation picnic will be no less engaging, with a menu of returning favorites. Italian herb marinated chicken breasts, smoked bratwurst, hamburgers, hot dogs and veggie burgers are sure to meet hungry partygoers from all over the region.

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Don't miss the POM picnic on June 5!

people in the audience. "They are the stars of the show," he said.

In addition to sleight of hand type tricks, Farr

HR HEAD RIDES BUS AND LEARNS

When someone is responsible for human resources issues for 19,000 bus drivers at some 250 locations, it's vital to know what's going on. That's why First Student's vice president of human resources, Rick Vilines, rides routes all over the country.

"It is not a desk job," said Vilines, who spends 40 percent of his time traveling around the country. He also admits

to being a Twins fan. Why the Twins? He calls them "over achievers," and being the most successful small market team captures his admiration.

He recently saw the Twins' second game of the season when in Seattle and, with Santana pitching, he experienced the characteristic "come from behind win" that makes him

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HR VP Rick Vilines

Kids Say the Darndest Things

(Call 801-452-9800 with stories from your bus.)



Around 8 a.m. on a sunny morning seven years ago, Burnsville driver Mary Mooney went to pick up a group of elementary kids. One first-grader was "bawling his eyes out" as he got on her bus.

"What's the matter, are you okay?" she asked, as he continued to bawl.

He replied: "Timmy stepped on my shadow while I was waiting for the bus!"