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**EGGWAY?**  
 Commuting in a shell  
 • Variety

**Weather** Low: 33° High: 79°  
*B8*  
 Sunrise: 7:24  
 Sunset: 6:28  
 28.3rd day; 72 until 104

Monday  
 October 20, 2003  
 50¢

# Star Tribune

Metro  
 Edition

NEWSPAPER OF THE TWIN CITIES

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## Local cyclists pedal HPVs to keep warm and dry on commutes

*Delma J. Francis, Star Tribune*

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“Ooh! What is it?”

“You guys look like you’re riding in an egg.”

“It looks like the Flintstones’ car!”

There’s never a lack of interest or comment when Dr. Mary Arneson and her husband, Dr. Dale Hammerschmidt, pedal by in their human-powered vehicles, or HPVs for those in the know. Also known as velomobiles or “cab-bikes,” they resemble a backwards tricycle -- two wheels in front and one in the back -- with a seat like that of a recumbent bike, enclosed in a bullet-shaped fiberglass shell.



The German-made velomobile can go up to about 35 miles per hour, although Hammerschmidt once reached 52 mph going downhill (“a sin against the virtue of wisdom,” he says now). They operate under the same rules as a bicycle. Because they currently are sold only in Europe, the couple bought them while on vacation in Germany. They’re priced at about \$7,000 (\$5,000 for the velomobile and \$2,000 for shipping).

Longtime bike enthusiasts, Arneson, 53, and Hammerschmidt, 57, were looking for an alternative that would keep them dry and warm while commuting to work -- he to the University of Minnesota and she to the Minneapolis Park-Nicollet Clinic, just south of downtown.

“This takes away the danger of wussing out of riding to work when it’s raining,” said Hammerschmidt with a grin.

Plus, “I’d started wheezing on my bike when the temperature got below 10 [degrees],” Arneson said.

The couple bought three of the German velomobiles, hoping to interest their children, Erika, 22 and Karl, 20. But “there hasn’t been a lot of fighting over the third one,” Hammerschmidt said.

The couple often wear shorts and tops that echo the orange flame detailing of the white cycles.

“When you get to be 57,” Hammerschmidt said, “you can’t ride hot anymore, so you have to try to look hot.”

*Delma J. Francis*

**Picture caption: Mary Arneson, left, and Dale Hammerschmidt take their velomobiles for a spin near the Lake Harriet bandshell. Duane Braley; Star Tribune**

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