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THIS WEEK:



New Kirkwood

a Des Moines City
ouncil approved a \$1.1
million loan for an Omaha
veloper to convert the
toric Kirkwood Hotel into
apartment building.

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For Rent

apartment vacancies soared
record highs last year.
at the forecast for the rest
of the market is sunny.

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Financial
Planner

Randy Von
Fumetti has spent
decades as the

What this city needs ...

BY BETH DALBEY

Laura Belin, a member of the Business Record's fifth annual Forty Under 40 class, mentions almost as an afterthought her yearning for a restaurant in Greater Des Moines offering the fiery hot Ethiopian cuisine she's come to appreciate in other cities. Overall, she displays the pride of a parent about the increasingly diverse dining, cultural and entertainment options added to the city during the years she was living in Europe, a change that astonishes her skeptical siblings living elsewhere in the United States.

"In a lot of ways, with the different types of food and live music, there's more going on than when I was growing up in Des Moines," said Belin, a journalist and foundation president who earned a reputation as an expert on Russian politics through her work for Radio Free Europe.

Her return home after living in Prague and London yielded some disappointments as well. "Greater Des Moines needs to value its architecture," she said. "It was very sad to see the AIB Building torn down. A great city values the nice old buildings it has and finds new uses for them."

Belin, like other members of the newspaper's leadership class, is strongly engaged in a communitywide conversation about how to make Greater Des Moines an attractive 21st-century city for businesses, the young professionals who keep them humming and the families who



From left, James Myers, Alba Bassett-Armijo, Jeffrey Aldrich, Billi Hunt and Marvin Debner are members of the Business Record's fifth annual Forty Under 40 class.

call the city home.

In selecting the honorees from more than 130 nominations, the judges — all previous Forty Under 40 honorees — looked beyond corporate board rooms and executives. For instance, Jeffrey Aldrich, a sergeant with the Des Moines Police Department, is the first police officer among the 200 people selected since the newspaper named its first Forty Under 40 class in 2000. The 2004

class also includes a minister and a dentist, as well as executives, attorneys, marketing professionals, business owners, non-profit leaders and other professionals.

Belin's years in Europe also raised her expectations regarding public transportation. "The biggest culture shock was needing a car," she said. In Prague and

DES MOINES BUSINESS RECORD'S
FORTY
UNDER 40

FORTY continued on Page 34