

the paper

April, 1971

Serving residents of the area bounded by
Lindell to Delmar & DeBaliviere to the city limits

ISSUES VITAL TO ENTIRE AREA ON BALLOT APRIL 6

Future of Two Businesses Uncertain Due to Sale

By Ted Gest

The future of the Left Bank Bookstore and the Lantern House Restaurant is in doubt as a result of the sale of the building on the southwest corner of Skinker and Delmar Boulevards to Southwestern Bell Telephone Co.

The building was once slated to be the site of a Jack-in-the-Box drive-in restaurant before community opposition led Ralston Purina Co. to drop the plan just over a year ago.

A spokesman for the telephone company confirmed the purchase of the building last week, saying that the company planned to demolish the structure to make way for the construction of a parking lot for employees who work at the company office at 6214 Delmar.

The sale took place about a month ago, the spokesman said. He said that the company had no definite date set for demolition but that "an arrangement will be made so that the tenants will be able to relocate without hardship."

Southwestern Bell has not given formal notice of the sale or its plans to either Left Bank or the Lantern House, and both establishments said they would like to remain in the Delmar-Skinker area but that no alternate locations have been found.

One of the eight persons who owns the bookstore said, "we'd prefer to stay here, but we're looking for another location in the area. We think that this area needs a bookstore and a restaurant more than a parking lot."

A spokesman for the Lantern House who food was described just a year ago by Esquire's food critic as one of the six best Chinese meals he had ever had — said that the restaurant is also seeking another location in the Skinker-Delmar area but that no possible site had yet been found. He said the restaurant would move out of the immediate area if necessary.

No protest movement has yet formed similar to the one that successfully blocked the construction of a drive-in restaurant on the site a year ago.

Ralston Purina, which owned the building previously, had announced plans to build a Jack-in-the-Box "drive-through" restaurant there last year, but neighborhood residents — including members of the Rosedale-Skinker and Skinker-DeBaliviere associations — protested.

After several meetings with representatives of Foodmaker

Inc., the Ralston subsidiary that manages the drive-in chain, the residents finally met with the president of Ralston Purina on March 11, 1970, to express their opposition to the company's plans. The company announced eleven days later that it had dropped the idea.

At the time, Donald Knoesel, a local Foodmaker spokesman, said that "Ralston Purina and Foodmaker will be working with responsible citizens in the area to properly handle the disposition of the property."

Asked whether proposals by area residents that the building be turned over to a nonprofit neighborhood group were under

consideration, Knoesel replied, "very possibly."

Richard Hart, Skinker-DeBaliviere area resident who has been active in the campaign to save the Skinker-Delmar corner, said that Ralston Purina did not participate actively with residents in determining the fate of the building. "I wrote a letter to them after the restaurant plan was dropped, but they never answered," he said.

Hart said of the telephone company's plan, "Most people behind the opposition to the Jack-in-the-Box feel that a parking lot is better than a drive-in restaurant on that corner."

Hart said also that the original protesters conceded that "the building as it stands has no commercial value."

Hart said that the telephone company has demonstrated the need for a parking lot because many employees quit their jobs within three months for reasons such as the lack of parking facilities.

A group of area residents is working with Lantern House in an attempt to find the restaurant different facilities in the Skinker-Delmar area but has had no success so far, Hart said.

Tot Lot To Be Built

By Pat Kohn

The Residential Service, which has been gathering materials for the Tot Lot, has set the construction dates for Saturday and Sunday, April 17 and 18 and Saturday and Sunday, April 24 and 25. Street Revival, the Washington University group which has designed the lot, will be on hand to supervise and help with construction and we are asking the entire neighborhood to provide the necessary manpower.

The construction will be broken into specific projects such as building the fence, setting up a climbing apparatus, painting the structures, planting the trees and hedges, providing coffee and food for the workers, hauling construction materials to the site from the various places in which they've been stored over the winter, etc. There will be work for many, many bodies. **SAVE SOME PART OF APRIL 17 and 18, and APRIL 24 and 25 FOR THE TOT LOT.**

A flyer listing the specific projects, times and supervisors will be distributed during the week preceding the 17th of April door to door. Any questions or specific offers of help can be directed to Pat Kohn, 863-9259 or Chris Wright, 725-2753.



Model of Tot - Lot

By Avis Carlson

Just ahead of us, on April 6, is the important municipal election, in which St. Louis voters will be electing a President of the Board of Aldermen, aldermen from all even-numbered wards, four members of the Board of Education, and one member of the Board of Trustees for the Junior College. In addition to filling these offices, we shall be voting on the proposed joint zoo-and-museums district for City and County, and on two amendments to the Charter of St. Louis. Thus, a good many important decisions face the voter April 6.

The office of the President of the Board of Aldermen is especially important because this official acts as mayor when the mayor is out of town and succeeds him in case of death. He is also one of the three members of the powerful Board of Estimate and Apportionment, the City's chief fiscal agency. (It must approve all departmental fundings before they can go to a vote by the aldermen. The other two members are the mayor and the comptroller.) For this office the incumbent, Joseph Badaracco, Republican, is being challenged by Stephen Darst, the young Democrat who recently won a heated primary contest.

Among the aldermen to be elected is one from our ward, the Twenty-eighth. Incumbent John A. Roach of 6106 Kingsbury, a Democrat, is facing Republican Edward M. Walsh of 6205 McPherson in a rematch of the contest last fall for the incomplete term created when Brendan Ryan became circuit attorney.

The school board election is unusual this year because in addition to the slate, mostly incumbents, endorsed by the Committee for Quality Schools, a second group of candidates calling themselves "the grass roots slate" is running an active campaign. On the first slate are Daniel Schlafly, who has served three six-year terms; Malcolm Martin, seeking his second term; the Rev. James L. Commings, an appointed incumbent; and Mrs. Garnell De Ramus, a former president of the Banneker District Council of Parent Organizations.

The contending group of candidates consists of Mrs. Helen Floyd, Mrs. Vivian Barnett, Mrs. Melvin Thomas and Arthur Wade. They have been pressing their case at many meetings, including ward meetings. They charge that the present Board does not truly represent the people of the inner city, that its members do not have children in the public school system and are so isolated from parents that the latter have no voice in the education of their children.

Six candidates are running for the single spot on the Board of Trustees of the Junior College: Richard Eichhorst, Paul R. Keys, Homer G. Phillips, Earl J. Poe Jr., Victoria Schmidt, and Robert Thebeau.

The two proposed amendments to the City Charter have so far had little public discussion, but interest in them will presumably pick up before election.

The first of these amendments changes the system of fine and imprisonment regulations at present laid out in the Charter. The amendment proposes that in the future no municipal court can impose more than a \$500 fine or over six months' imprisonment. It also proposes that any one who has had a fine assessed which he cannot pay shall be committed to the workhouse and given a work assignment until the fine has been paid off at the rate of \$15 per day. If the prisoner chooses not to work, the fine is to be reduced at the rate of \$5 per day.

The other amendment changes the Charter requirements for correction of ward boundaries. The present provision is that ward boundaries must be adjusted every ten years in accordance with the number of registered voters in each ward. The amendment would change the correction to accord with population, so as to bring the correction under the one-man-one-vote principle laid down by the Supreme Court.

Altogether, an important piece of voting is to be done on April 6. Usually voting is quite light in this election. It is to be hoped that residents of our area will make it their business to go to the polls that day.

Hamilton School

In the past, the area's public school, Hamilton Elementary School, has been the subject of much concern, some despair and only recently a few rays of hope. A citizen's group is negotiating with the school board to alleviate the most severe problem of the school — overcrowding. For two years five buses have transported the entire fifth and sixth grades and one room of fourth graders to Mitchell School on 955 Arcade Ave. The fourth grade goes to Hamilton Branch 1. It's possible for a family with four children to have them in four different schools.

The situation has improved, however. Part of the east end of the district is bused in its entirety to Wheatley School. Several blocks have been given to the Cook School district.

"We have breathing space this year," Principal Edgar Burnett reports, "Our average class size at the main school this year is only 32 — a size we consider manageable"

Other problems the school faces is a high turnover rate (over 25 per cent) due to the large number of transient apartment dwellers. Mr. Burnett reports that, according to a recent survey, the influx of pupils is not due to movement from the projects, as many believe. The majority of the pupils are moving within the boundaries of the Northwest Soldan district in the west end. On the other hand, he also reports that many families are moving to the county,

In the past Hamilton has gone through a period of rapid change which created unstable learning situations. In addition to the high turnover of pupils, there was a high turnover of principals (four in five years) and staff. Hardly a situation to encourage maximum learning.

Now, the school seems to be catching its breath and with the help of a large number of local institutions is creating a viable atmosphere for learning. A new black studies curriculum is being developed at the school with a grant from the American Historical Society and personnel from Washington University. A math teacher works with teachers on a regular basis to improve that sometimes neglected portion of the curriculum. Interns from two different colleges are in the school supplementing the work of the regular teachers while learning to teach. The once dormant PTA and the mothers club are stirring to action as witnessed by the Clothes Closet and other projects. A community school has begun for adults in the evening.

However, one of the most encouraging developments is, as a teacher at the school describes it — "the creation of an atmosphere among the staff of working together and a principal who keeps his cool." And, we might add, a principal who has demonstrated his willingness to work with the community. These are the first ingredients necessary to quality education. The next is more support and interest from the community.

The fate of the Skinker-DeBaliviere area is tied inevitably to the quality of education within the community since it is one of the prime considerations of new families moving in. As the schools go, so will the community.

Hamilton Committee Suggests Delmar Baptist as School

By Jim Hitchcock

Citizen efforts to alleviate overcrowded conditions at Hamilton School are presently centered on the possibility of renting space at Delmar Baptist Church, Skinker and Washington, according to Mrs. Virgil Wright, spokesman for a group which has had contact with school officials over the past few months.

Slightly more than 500 pupils from the Hamilton district are now bussed out to other schools. Mrs. Wright's group, which has fifteen to twenty active members, hopes to eliminate the need for bussing by getting the School Board to open another Hamilton branch.

Early this month the district superintendent, Robert Brasfield, inspected the Delmar Baptist facilities. Mrs. Wright said there have been informal indications that the church might be willing to rent part of its school building, which includes a kitchen and gymnasium.

"We hope to get a really integrated branch school; there are a number of whites and blacks in the area who are not Catholic yet hesitate to send their children to Hamilton because of overcrowded conditions," Mrs. Wright said. There are also reported to be a large number of permissive transfers out of Hamilton district to other schools, although exact figures are not available. Permissive transfers to Dewey School, 6746 Clayton Avenue, are being stopped because of crowding at Dewey, Mrs. Wright said.

The citizens' group has been negotiating with school officials

for about four months, with no tangible progress to date. Mrs. Wright said the group hopes to involve more Hamilton parents in its campaign. It is also inviting candidates for the School Board to speak to a neighborhood meeting which will probably be held at Grace Methodist.

Enrollment figures for the district are as follows: Hamilton School, 5819 Westminster Place, 1040; Hamilton Branch No. 1, 5858 Clemens Avenue, 257; Hamilton Branch No. 2, 5859 Clemens, 107; Hamilton Branch No. 3 (the "rooms of 20" for special learning), 450 DesPeres Avenue, 158. About 225 pupils each are bussed daily to Wheatley School, 4239 Papin Street, and Mitchell School, 955 Arcade Avenue. An additional 59 are bussed to Cook School, 5935 Horton Place. About 80 students from the district are enrolled at Enright Middle School, 5351 Enright Avenue.

The latest negotiations with school officials are part of a long series dating back at least five years, which have generally left residents frustrated and with little sense of accomplishment. Overcrowding at Hamilton began about ten years ago, when the district boundaries were redrawn to include an area north of Delmar. However, at present because of a recent boundary reduction, only about 19 students attend from north of Delmar.

James L'Ecuyer, former executive secretary of the Skinker-DeBaliviere Association, said he was part of a group which met

with school officials during a period 1966-68. At that time children were being walked south across Delmar each day to Hamilton, while children in the 5700 blocks near Hamilton were being bussed out. The School Board refused to take any action despite repeated request.

L'Ecuyer said his group did have some related successes. They persuaded the board to purchase

Hamilton Branch 3 at its present location instead of the 5900 block of Pershing, which would have required the destruction of houses. They obtained the use of school facilities for an evening adult education program.

However, after 1968 the group gave up in frustration, and no further efforts were made to influence district authorities until recently.

LETTERS TO LANDLORDS

Women for City Living, an organization concerned about crime and other community problems, has announced a letter-writing campaign to landlords of apartments and duplexes in the West End. The letters urge landlords to screen their tenants more carefully, to have tenants under eighteen obtain parental permission for occupancy, and to require leases.

Follow-up activities by the organization in dealing with these problems have not yet been announced.

The 1971 Officers for the WOMEN OF ST. ROCH'S President — Betty Renard, Vice-President — Mary Deppe, Secretary — Mary Louise Dryden, and Treasurer — Rita Magyar.

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• ART FAIR •

353 To Redevelop Debaliviere Passed; Council to Develop Plans

CLEAN-UP

An area-wide clean-up is scheduled in May if the SDCC has enough volunteers to launch the campaign. Flyers announcing the clean-up will be distributed. Do not set out items to be picked up until you receive a flyer.

To insure the success of the operation, volunteers are needed to man the trucks both as drivers and loaders. An operator's license for a large vehicle is required of the truck driver. People wishing to volunteer services should contact the Council office, 6008 Kingsbury, phone 862-5122.

According to Council Director Cal Stuart if truck drivers are not available for the clean up, attempts will be made to arrange for a clean up manned by city sanitation employees at a later date. If such a change is necessary, residents will be notified in advance by leaflets distributed door to door.

On Monday, May 7, the alleys will be swept by the department's regular street sweeping equipment.

and estimated amounts and sources must be included in the plan submitted to the City Plan Commission. Possible sources of revenue might come from the Federal Housing Act of 1968, the F.H.A. insurance program or private mortgages.

Stuart indicated that the Council will have a three-fold aim in formulating plans for rehabilitating the area. They are first of all to encourage neighborhood participation in the planning and to obtain neighborhood approval of the plan. The plan will also attempt to maintain the present economic mixture of the area by providing low, moderate and middle-income housing. Last, redevelopment plans will take into consideration the commercial and recreational needs of the neighborhood.

1. first, a six month waiting period during which developers may submit plans to the City Plan Commission,
 2. followed by approximately 30 days in which the Commission considers the plans,
 3. then a specific plan is recommended to the Board of Aldermen for approval
 4. finally, acceptance or rejection by the Board of Aldermen.
- During this process, changes in the original plan may be suggested by the Commission and by the Board of Aldermen. According to John Roach, 28th Ward Alderman, once the plan has been approved by the Board of Aldermen, it is still subject to the periodic review through public hearings, and the bill may be repealed at any time if just cause can be shown.

The Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Council hopes to act as a developer in the project. Executive Director, Cal Stuart, emphasized that no plans would be submitted to the City Plan Commission by the Council without first meeting with neighborhood approval. Stuart said it was the Council's wish to "encourage a high level of neighborhood involvement in developing

plans for the area." If the Council is not named as developer, it will still take steps to assure neighborhood participation in approving final plans.

To sample neighborhood opinion on the 353 program, a meeting was held at St. Roch's Church on February 27. In addition, the Council, in association with Washington University School of Architecture, conducted a survey (every third house on each block was contacted) to determine the recreational and commercial needs of the area. Such items as family make-up (size, age), residence type, condition, and cost; use of commercial and recreational facilities; and an optional question on general income were included. Stuart says the information is being used by the design team to formulate redevelopment plans to meet the needs and desires of the community.

The 353 program has caused Skinker-DeBaliviere residents concern in three areas: (1) relocation, (2) fate of owner occupied buildings, (3) financing. Roach explained that viable relocation procedures must be included in the redevelopment scheme. Some relocation would probably be made in rehabilitated buildings in the area. According to Stuart, the Council is pledged to minimal relocation even if it is not named as developer.

For those concerned about owner occupied property, it should be understood that the incentive is offered to a general area, not to specific structures. Roach says that multi-family structures will be most affected by the bill. He also indicates that property owners can reap the benefits by improvements made on surrounding and adjoining property as well as by using the tax incentive to improve their own property.

Financing for the program is the problem of the developer,

THE PAPER, a non-profit monthly newspaper published by residents living in the community bounded by Delmar to Lindell, DeBaliviere to the city limits. All articles are contributed by volunteers. If you would like to help, please call one of the editors.

EDITORS: Jean Eberle, Jody Creighton, Mary Parker

BUSINESS MANAGER: Clare Walsh

CIRCULATION MANAGER: Sue Roberts, 863-2148, with Barbara Schmidt, Rosemary Storey and Blanche Reel.

ADVERTISING MANAGER: Sylvia Ducklow, with Pat Kohn, Susie Roach, Barbara Halley

CHURCH NEWS: Sue Hudspeth, 863-1976.

BLOCK NEWS: Cherie McKee, 862-2351

PHOTOGRAPHERS: Jody Creighton.

If you wish to have THE PAPER mailed to you, please send one dollar for a year's mailing costs to Mrs. Barbara Schmidt, 5819 Pershing.

Mail news and letters to the editor to: Editor, 6217 Waterman, 63112. Letters to the Editor must be signed. Names will be withheld upon request.

Needed Children For Treehouse

By Betty Magrath

The Treehouse Children's Center opened March 7th with seven children between the ages of 3 and 5. Since there is a capacity for 25 children, another registration has been set for April 10, between 1 and 3 pm at 6010 Kingsbury. An Easter egg hunt will be held at the center, a continuation of Project Five Summer Day Camp, was started with seed money from Thurtene Carnival and many hours of labor by parents, students from Washington University, and community residents. Much of the equipment was obtained through donations and discounts from: Community Library Service - books, Loy-Lange Box Co. - cardboard boxes, Pillow Manufacturing Co. - styrofoam rubber, Ladue Auxillary No. 4751 of the Knights of Columbus - projector and pillows, Ellen Eppard - set of speakers, Beckers-Behrens-Gist - lumber.

The center is still in need of toys such as balls, puzzles, building blocks, books; art materials such as paints, brushes, crayons, clay and household items such as eating utensils, blender, juicer, mixer. Persons wishing to donate items should call 863-5116.

The Treehouse Children's Center, open only a few days, has already suffered the loss of audio-visual equipment valued at about \$600 which was taken in a burglary. In order to replace this equipment, the parents and students are organizing fund-raising events.

On Saturday, May 1, there will be a garage-rummage sale and a bake-sale at the center. Flyers giving more detailed information will be distributed previous to the activities. Anyone who would like to donate furniture clothes, cakes, cookies, etc should contact Ellen Eppard 862-2895, Melba Buxbaum 725-6548 or the center 863-5116.

SDCC Starts Info Center

The Skinker-DeBaliviere Neighborhood Information Center is now open to provide services to community residents. Opened March 15, 1971, its hours are 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., Monday, Wednesday and Friday. It is located at the Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Council office, 6008 Kingsbury.

The aim of the Center is to provide information, counseling, referrals, etc. for the problems and questions of community residents. Information will be provided on problems such as health, social welfare, recreation, education, employment, day care, problems of senior citizens and others. If necessary, the Center will refer persons to agencies that handle the specific problem. Counseling services are also available.

The Center is run by Pamela Waidler, a student from Washington University School of Social Work. She can be contacted at the Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Council office, 6008 Kingsbury, telephone number 862-5122, during the office hours of the Center. Miss Waidler needs volunteer help in running the Center. Anyone interested should call the Council office.

VOTE April 6

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An Interview With Don Lipton

guided tour through real estate tangle

By Jean Eberle

When you talk urban real estate with Mr. Don Lipton of Lipton Realty Company, especially real estate in the Skinker-DeBaliviere area, you are apt to wind up on a guided tour. You start out in a comfortable office at Kingshighway and Washington, but soon are driving up and down the blocks of this neighborhood for a first hand look at the strange mixture of well-maintained buildings with poorly-maintained buildings, with bombed out, boarded up buildings, and some piles of rubble where buildings used to be.

"So and so owns this building, but only about half the units are occupied." "This building is filled with responsible tenants and is in good shape." — "Look at the building across the street from the apartment building on Clara where the Pruitt-Igoe families are living. Nobody raised any rumpus about that and you'll have to look hard to find one in worse shape than it is."

Asked about the future of cities in general, Mr. Lipton commented that people can live with anything but crime. In some cities, notably New York and Chicago, people are living with rising crime rates by investing heavily in security. Closed circuit television, controlled access lobbies with doormen and watchmen make city living possible.

In Skinker-DeBaliviere as in core-city areas across the country a big problem is the lack of money for financing maintenance and repairs, and the difficulty in obtaining insurance on commercial and multiple-family properties. Most insurance is through Fair, an insurance pool organized to cover city properties.

A native of the St. Louis area, a graduate of Clayton High School and Tulane University, Mr. Lipton joined in his father's real estate business. His interest in the Skinker-DeBaliviere area in particular began when Lipton Realty took over the management of properties acquired by West End Townhouses.

"When you take over the management of other people's property, you are sometimes open to criticism," he remarked. "If the owner is unfamiliar with the property or unable to maintain it on his own

resources and buildings need repairs, it is hard to get financing to make them. There is very little private capital being invested in cities today and most of that is in the form of loans guaranteed by some branch of the federal government."

He mentioned the proposed 353 program for the blighting and redevelopment of the triangle area and the DeBaliviere business section as one means of getting private capital to work in an urban neighborhood. Any project planned to improve the area sooner or later comes down to the question of where does the money come from?

Another problem of the Skinker-DeBaliviere area from the standpoint of real estate management was pointed out by Mr. Lipton on the guided tour. He indicated a number of handsome buildings, only partially occupied, because the owners were trying to find responsible tenants. No other comment was necessary since often in adjacent buildings dirty windows and littered yards indicated what irresponsible tenants could do to the appearance of a block. "There are landlords walking away from some of these properties. Owners deed them to fictitious owners, anything, to get out from under them. They can't borrow money to fix them up, aren't sure they could get good tenants if they got the money, and can't get insurance, so they are disclaiming them."

"Crime enters the picture again when you try and rent or sell properties. The cities and suburban communities are going to have to find a way to stop crime. As it is, when we report a crime, someone spends three or four hours downtown, and the accused usually walks out at the same time. We are wasting efforts and we can't afford to waste that kind of time."

On the way back to the office, Mr. Lipton spoke particularly of the Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Council and Women for City Living as two groups he thought could have real influence on city neighborhoods. Back at his desk, near a wall decorated with pictures of his wife and three sons, he settled down to what looked like a day of relaxed hurrying.

Traffic Control On Skinker Urged

A recent evaluation of truck traffic on Skinker Boulevard, undertaken by the city Traffic division at the request of Women for City Living, points out the need for traffic control on Skinker if the residential character of the neighborhood is to be preserved. During the six-hour day, two-day evaluation period, 400 dual-wheel trucks per day rumbled down Skinker from Clayton Road to Delmar. This is somewhat over one big truck per minute. The count included only those trucks of sufficient size and weight to require a double set of wheels. 98% of the trucks were non-stop or passing through, making no stops for business between Clayton Road and Delmar.

Women for City Living and a group of Skinker-DeBaliviere residents who live close to Skinker are urging the St. Louis Department of Streets to take action against this through truck traffic, on the grounds of adding to already hazardous driving conditions and excessive and constant noise. Women for City Living has mailed out two thousand sample letters outlining its plan for Skinker to Mr. Paul H. Spelbrink, Department of Streets, City Hall. Anyone wishing to obtain a copy of this letter can obtain one by calling 231-0425.

The plan put forward in the organization's letter calls for projects to outlaw commercial through traffic on Skinker between Delmar and Clayton Road since this stretch adjoins Forest Park, Lindell, the churches along Skinker, the Washington University campus and many outstanding urban residential streets. Further plans would place a parkway divider, for which the right of way is available, in the center of Skinker, running from Clayton Road to Delmar.

Many residents feel that the increased volume of heavy truck traffic is a serious hazard in turning on and off of Skinker, and that the additional damage done by traffic noise is out of place in a residential neighborhood.

Give Clothes To Children

By Shirley Kowell

The Hamilton Clothes Closet is still progressing, and still in need of all the help that you the Skinker-DeBaliviere community can give it. Please check your closets for clothes you no longer want or need. These clothes might just be what someone else needs.

A great big hand of appreciation is due Mrs. G. Wimbley. She has donated a considerable amount of time to mending and sorting clothes. She was last seen sorting buttons, accompanied by another faithful worker Mrs. Williams.

So would everyone who can and will please come and help us and get involved in Clothes Closet? It can be fun as well as rewarding to know that you are helping others.

For information pertaining to how you may render some service, please contact Mrs. Rowell, 863-3776.

Volunteers are needed for the annual Alley Clean Up. Call Skinker DeBaliviere Today!

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NEWS BRIEFS . . . NEWS BRIEFS

Grass Seed At Council Office

Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Council has ordered 2600 pounds of grass seed which is available at the Council office at 6008 Kingsbury. To be distributed in the Washington Heights-Rosedale-Skinker areas, the seed is free. Just stop by the office for your share.

Also in the interests of spring, the Council has outside house paint and trash can lids available free. These items may be obtained on an individual basis by calling the Council office at 862-5122.

Resource Library at School

People's Community School has announced the formation of a resource library. At present about 150 books on community, urban and racial problems are available and may be checked out at Hamilton School, in Room 204-A. Donations of books on these and other related problems will be gratefully accepted to help expand the library.

Persons wishing to donate books should call 863-0100, Ext. 4608 or Hamilton School, 863-1610.

ALLEY CLEAN UP MAY 1

The annual Washington Heights alley clean up is scheduled to be held on May 1st. Trucks from the city of St. Louis will pick up large trash items in the alley on Friday, May 7.

COURSES AT

COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Courses at People's Community School were off to a good start for spring semester, although a few did not begin holding classes until March.

Currently teaching courses at the school are: Bobbie Ain, Art; Shellie Jordan, Black History; Don Pace, Bridge for Beginners, and Chess; Carl Roper, Karate; Kate Guykema, Knitting; Morris Newby, Nursing; Bob Moore, Photography; Cherie McKee and Sally Schumacher, Sewing; and Jenny Meininger, Intermediate Typing.

Elects

New Board

Five new board members were elected at an open meeting of the People's Community School Board on March 16. About 17 persons attended the meeting. Elected to two-year terms were: incumbents Clarice Haynes and Prentiss Davis; and Patricia McKissick, new member. Lucille Foster was elected to a one-year term, replacing Rick Bender, former secretary who has resigned.

The new Teen member, serving for one year, will be Woody Rowell. Patricia Haynes, elected tentatively as a Teen member, will serve out the remaining year of Byron Tayes, if necessary.

Other Board members currently serving two-year terms are: Jane Davis, chairman; Doug McKee and Loretta Lewis. The Board will designate its new chairman and secretary at its next regular meeting, the third Monday in April.

All Board meetings are open to the community and are held at the Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Council, 6008 Kingsbury.

By Eleanor Pratt

Railroad Clean-up Announced

A clean-up of the Norfolk and Western Railroad right-of-way, which cuts diagonally through much of the Skinker-DeBaliviere area, is scheduled for April 12 or 19. Mr. John Roach, alderman, announced that Mr. Burns of the Norfolk and Western right-of-way maintenance division agreed that the railroad had an obligation to attend to the right-of-way. Residents bordering the railroad tracks have been meeting to get action on the unsightly weeds which hold wind-blown trash and litter and occasionally burst forth into brush fires.

Mr. Burns said that their workmen will stack the collected trash near the tracks and that an engine will be sent through to pick it up and take it to a disposal point.

Residents are also negotiating with the city to clean up those portions of the slope which are city-owned and where trash also piles up into neighborhood eyesores.

Police Liaison

By Mel Archie

In October, 1969, the Police Liaison Committee was initiated by Burke Mees in an effort to curb crime in the Skinker-DeBaliviere area through community participation.

Since that time, the Committee has made regular visits to the Seventh District Police Station to compile figures on crime in the area. It has also been largely responsible for increased beat patrol coverage and formation of the Block Watchers. In addition, the Committee has done some investigation of home protection devices.

Mr. Virgil Wright, who heads the group, says that they are now going through a revamping stage. At present, the Committee has no administrative board, and overall organization is somewhat loose. These difficulties will hopefully be eliminated.

Future plans include building the Committee membership to twelve regular attending delegates representing specific neighborhoods in the area and offering an instruction program on how to report crimes more effectively and how to recognize con-games. Mr. Wright says that a police substation might be advantageous; a simple store-front building could serve in this capacity. He also expressed a desire to see security guards stationed at area bus stops from 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. and from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. the high crime hours. This would provide protection and peace of mind to area residents going to and from work. Public relations and fundraising programs are now under consideration.

Although all Committee meetings are now on a call basis, a regular schedule will be decided upon in the near future.

Miriam Re-Sale Shop Opens on Skinker

A re-sale shop recently opened at 623 N. Skinker, one block north of Delmar. The Miriam Shop was originally established in 1947 and changed to the present address on March 1. Operated by the United Order of True Sisters, Inc., Miriam No. 17, the profits from the shop go to three charitable causes: Miriam School for emotionally disturbed children; American Cancer Society; and Aid to the Blind.

Decorated in shades of pink, the Miriam Shop is a bright spot. It carries everything from baby clothes to furniture. Mrs. Stanley Sicher, vice president of Miriam No. 17 and manager of the shop, has even sold a mink coat since the shop's opening. The store carries a large selection of children's and women's apparel, and the prices are more than reasonable. All articles for sale are donated by the manufacturers or by individuals. Such donations are tax deductible.

Store hours are 1 to 4 Monday through Saturday. Volunteers and members of Miriam No. 17 serve as salesladies. Their friendliness and helpfulness creates the warm, cheerful atmosphere of the store. Stop in often.

- Cheri McKee

WANT ADS

Baby sitting wanted anytime; day, night, weekend. Contact: Irma Robinson, 5463 Delmar Boulevard, Apartment 112 West.

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*By Donne Lottes
abcdefghijklmnop -
qrstuvwxyz and z
Won't they be so proud of me,
when I learn my ABCs!*

I know that air pollution, ecology, and over-population are among our biggest worries today, but dear hearts, long before we do away with ourselves in a cloud of smog, I fear we may all drown in a very large bowl of ALPHABET SOUP.

Have you noticed lately in the newspapers and magazines how more and more we have come to use two and three letter abbreviations for the ever-growing number of organizations in society today? The trend is

Founders Day For PTA Group

On February 17, 1897 about 200 people gathered in Washington D.C., to discuss questions vital to the welfare of children and the interests of the homes. As a result a national Parent-Teachers organization came into being, dedicated to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, homes, schools, churches and communities.

This year's Founders Day Theme: Volunteer Now for Quality Living. The observance of Founders Day has three main objectives, (1) to honor founders and past leaders; (2) to increase understanding of the purpose and scope of P.T.A. work; (3) to raise funds for expanding and strengthening the P.T.A. Many persons, including members, have only limited knowledge of its goals and accomplishments.

We cannot afford the luxury of a Founders Day celebration which faces the past. Even before the founding of the PTA, President Lincoln at Gettysburg said something which keeps thundering in my ears. "Now we are engaged in a civil war testing whether that nation or any nation so conceived and so dedicated can long endure." These words seem somehow appropriate for us. We are engaged in conflict both tactical and with words, within and without our country.

At our Founders Day meeting members and guests were invited to make a birthday contribution, actually a gift to America's children, for it is used to expand and strengthen the capacity of the P.T.A. Our gift was forwarded to the state P.T.A. office in Columbia, Missouri to join others from this state. I would like to thank the people who helped make our Founders Day gift possible, Mrs. Wimbley, Mrs. Tucker, Mrs. Mason, Mrs. Hayes and all the others. Thank you.

Mrs. Marie Rowell, president.

Legislation Urged

Mr. Marlen Heines of the St. Louis Beautification Commission spoke recently to a group of Washington Heights Neighbors at their general meeting on March 9. He urged citizen involvement in initiating legislation that would help make St. Louis beautiful and litter free.

Mr. Heines informed the group that such an ordinance is in effect in Bowie Md., requiring a fine of \$100 per day against a store that sells beverages in throw away containers. Similar laws are being sought in New York, Madison, Wisc., Buffalo, New York, and Baltimore, Ohio. Over sixty such laws are pending in 25 states.

Heines hopes that individuals and neighborhood groups would work with their Aldermen and other representatives to enact this type of legislation in the St. Louis area.

VOTE

Drowning In

Alphabet Soup

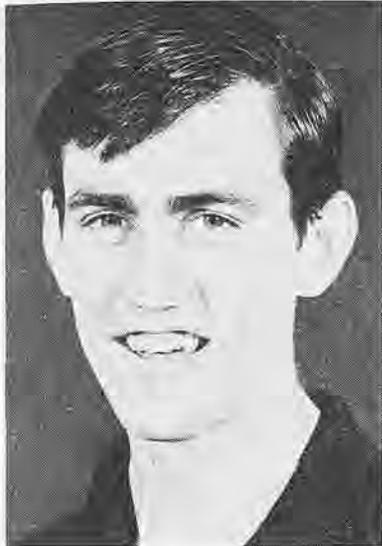
toward "think small". We have the small car, microfilm, mini-bikes, transistor radios, car T.V.s, compressed garbage and the ABCs and very important!

Just for fun, here is a list of fifty of the most frequently used abbreviations. Now, let's play a little game - first read the list, then go back and see how many you can honestly identify by their whole name and score one point for each one you know. If you score between 40 and 50 points, put a gold star on your forehead. If you score between 25 and 40, you rate a green star. Anything less than a score of 25 means you're only understanding about half of what you read - for this a crash-course in

ALPHABET is heartily recommended!

Are you ready? Get set - GO: AA, AAA, AMA, AT&T, AFL, ATC, AMB, BBB, CORE, CAB, CAA, CIA, EPA, FHA, FTD, FBI, GMT, HUD, HEW, IATA, IBM, JDL, KKK, MIRV, NATO, NBA, NFL, NLRB, NBC, NORAD, NAACP, PTA, POW, SDS, SALT, TVA, TAPS, TWA, UN, UFO, USO, UAW, UNICEF, VA, VISTA, YMCA, and XYZ. (Actually, XYZ is a "ringer" and unless you have a child in the house, you'll never figure this out.)

All this goes to prove we really never finish learning our ABCs. It just goes on and on and on and on and on and



Review of Superstar Album

by Tom Flynn

Jesus Christ Superstar is perhaps the most controversial album this year has seen. I'd like to say right away that I don't consider this album at all sacrilegious. That's one of the reasons I'm writing this article - to clear up a lot of misconceptions about the album and to review it.

The plot is based on the Bible. The story goes from Palm Sunday to the Crucifixion. Everything that happens in the Bible happens in the album, but there are also some additions. The writers wrote in conversations between Christ, Mary Magdalene, Judas, the Apostles, the High Priests and almost everyone connected with Christ in any way. The most important thing that this opera does is to make Christ more human and put motives behind whatever happens. For instance, the High Priests want Christ crucified because he is a revolutionary who is endangering their power. One thing that is interesting to note is that Judas is not made out as the worst scoundrel on the books.

From a technical standpoint this album is superb. The melodies, orchestration, execution and style are all on a very high level.

The last thing I'm going to say is that this album is worth listening to. Beg, borrow, or buy a copy of it and listen to it. Discuss it with your parents, your friends or your pastor. This is a good album.

BABY'S CORNER

Congratulations to Rodessa and Elmer Goodum, 5809 Pershing, on the birth of their daughter, Rodessa Lucittia Goodum, born Feb. 8, 1971 at Christian Hospital. Rodessa weighed six pounds, nine ounces.

HATS OFF TO Brain Drain Winners

It is a shame there isn't space enough to print every one of the grade school entries in our Brain-Drain contest for neighborhood improvement ideas. You would have to be touched by the frequency with which the youngsters wrote about a clean, pretty, friendly neighborhood. "If only everybody picked up their trash", "I'd fix it so there would be trash cans everywhere and everybody would clean up so there wouldn't be litter and dirt" - "I'd wave a Shape-Up wand so everybody would Shape-Up" - "I'd like to have everybody be friendly to everybody," - "I'd get it so everybody knew everybody" - "There ought to be no fighting".

This is one thing we can supply the youngsters with no master plan, no federal grant, no appeals to the city. All it takes is enough energy to bend over and pick up any litter we see, any

place we see it. That's not much energy.

It takes even less energy to smile and say "Hi" when we pass young people on the street. Their mothers have no doubt told them not to talk to strangers, but a smile and a "hi" in passing should do no harm.

Whether we own a home, rent a home or run a business in the neighborhood, we can have a clean, pretty neighborhood by using our eyes and a wastebasket. We can smile a greeting to each other and that would make the neighborhood a beauty spot on the gloomiest, cloudiest day.

So let's start smiling today! And start looking around our yards, streets, sidewalks and alleys and hide all the litter so when the youngsters wake up tomorrow they'll have their clean, friendly place to live.

Not being a graduate of the school of social work, I cannot solve the sociological problems in our neighborhood.

Not being a graduate of the school of urbanology, I cannot solve the problem of housing in our neighborhood.

But being a resident of this area for over 15 years, I don't have to be a graduate of this or that to notice the difference in the appearance of our streets.

Less than a decade ago, when we walked our streets, sat on our porches or drove our cars thru the area, we were attracted to the lovely trees. Now we have vacant spots where trees once stood. So, my layman suggestion is to conduct an intensive replanting campaign, using Council funds to aid residents who cannot afford ten dollars and absentee landlords who refuse to spend ten dollars. The sign of a deteriorating neighborhood is *no trees*.

Mrs. H.J. Cantwell
6119 Kingsbury

The greatest improvement for our neighborhood would be for us to have the use of Forest Park for all of our families.

At present, the northern part of the Park between DeBaliviere and Skinker is used for a golf course and general automobile traffic moving for the most part into the county.

I propose to close what is known as Grand Drive between Jefferson Memorial and Skinker, the Forsyth cutoff, Laguan Drive and the Fine Arts Drive to the Art Museum and return this land to full park use.

The closing of the streets in this manner would give us new areas of park land and areas which would be safer because there would be no through traffic at our end of the park. The new mounted police would find the area easier to control with the elimination of the automobiles.

Access to the park would be through the entrances at Jefferson Memorial and Wells Drive at Clayton and Skinker Roads. "No Parking" on Skinker and Lindell should be enforced thereby insuring neighborhood use of the park.

The plan has several advantages: (1) Lindell and the Forest Park Expressway can more than handle the east-west traffic. (2) Mounted police will be far more effective with no thru traffic. (3) This land will once again be used by the people of this area instead of being used as a traffic artery and parking lot.

If we all work together as a community, as we have so successfully on projects in the past few months, we can save the park from the pervasive automobile and return it to the people.

Mrs. Jane Hart, 6256 McPherson

I think the best idea would be instead of focusing on places for very young children to play, prepare a place for older kids to let off steam after school. We don't like to go to the Tot Lot because of all the little kids, we are afraid we will hurt them and get in trouble as we play in the street. Ann Loton Age-12

Then I would give a lot of money for the people of the neighborhood. For good trash cans enough for each family. Then for the trash cans, enough I would make holders, the back touches the wall and makes a circle around the front of the cans, so they won't spill. Tell everyone to write their names on the cans. I would have everyone's house sandpapered by machines to make them look good.
Vette Wilmering age 13 yrs.

ELECT

ED

WALSH

ALDERMAN 28th WARD REPUBLICAN

Events at Washington University

Jeff Mauvais

4/1: Professor John Rosenfield, Department of Fine Arts, Harvard University, will deliver a lecture entitled "The Three Laughers of the Tiger Valley: An Essay in Japanese Ink Painting" at 8:00 pm in Steinberg Auditorium. Admission free.

4/1: Baseball game with Harris Teacher's College (2) at home; 2:00 PM.

4/1 to 4/17: Exhibit of acrylics and masonite paintings by Terry Whittle, 11:00 AM to 11:00 PM daily in the Wohl Center Art Gallery.

4/2: Cinematographer Chris Borden will lecture on "Switzerland" at 8:15 PM in Graham Chapel. Adults, \$1.00. Students, 50 cents.

4/2 and 4/4: Jean-Luc Godard's film "Les Carabiniers" will be shown at 8:15 PM April 2 and at 2:30 PM April 4 in Brown Hall. Admission 75 cents.

4/12: Dr. Joseph S. Ullian, Professor of Philosophy, will deliver a lecture entitled "Philosophy, Logic, and Formalism" at 8:00 PM in Steinberg Auditorium. Admission free.

4/12: The Academic Committee will present two films: "The Man I Killed" and "At the Circus" at 8:00 PM in Wohl Center. Admission 50 cents.

4/13: Italian architect Carlos Testa will speak on "Industrialized Architecture" at 8:30 PM in Steinberg Auditorium.

4/14: "Encounters with Art" 8:00 PM in Steinberg Auditorium.

4/14: Professor Manning Nash, Department of Anthropology, University of Chicago, will lecture on "Industrialization: The Ecumenical and Parochial Aspects of the Problem" at 4:00 PM in the Women's Building. Admission free.

4/15: The Washington University Orchestra, Leonard Slatkin, Conductor, will present a concert at 8:00 PM in Graham Chapel. Admission free.

4/15: Baseball game with University of Missouri-St. Louis at home; 3:30 PM.

4/18: An Argentinian touring theater group will present "An Approach Towards the Argentine People through their Theater, Music, and Dances" at 8:00

PM in Steinberg Auditorium. Admission free.

4/19: Baseball game with Southeast Missouri State College at home; 3:30 PM.

4/20: Baseball game with SIU-Carbondale at home; 3:00 PM.

4/21: Track meet at home with University of Missouri-Rolla 3:30 PM.

4/24: Baseball game with McKendree College (2) at home; 1:30 PM.

4/27: Baseball game with St. Louis University at home; 4:00 PM.

4/28: Baseball game with Concordia Seminary at home; 4:00 PM.

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JOHN ROACH 28th ward

We are all intimately involved in what the academics call the "urban crisis". We live in the heart of one of our nation's great cities, struggling to preserve our neighborhoods against decay and replace blight with decent housing and revitalized commercial areas.

If we are to convince our neighbors to remain in the city and attract new persons who can help us in our effort, we must be able to say that our city government responds to our needs and that we can win some of the battles, great and small, to make our neighborhoods better places to raise and enjoy our families.

I believe that an Alderman must not only speak out and cast his vote on the issues which affect the city and his ward, he must be active in the battles we fight to help ourselves.

I have attempted to communicate with you through my newsletter and I have fought to demolish derelict buildings, improve the removal of derelict cars from the ward, make needed traffic changes including some limitation of heavy truck traffic on Skinker, achieve better housing code enforcement, secure additional street repairs, secure installation of salt boxes in hilly areas of the ward, hire additional school crossing guards, speed dead tree removal, and strive for a number of other steps to help neighborhood residents enjoy improvements in their environment.

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GRACE METHODIST:

Holy Week communion service will be held at 7:30 p.m. on Holy Thursday.

Members of Grace will participate in a Good Friday service at Saints Michael and George from 12 noon until 3:00 p.m.

Regular Easter services are scheduled for 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. with a contemporary Sunrise Service slated for 6:45 a.m.

ST. ROCH'S:

Officers and executive committee members will be elected at St. Roch's parish assembly meeting on Sunday, April 25.

There will be a mass at 7:00 a.m. on Holy Thursday and a concelebrated mass at 7:30 that evening.

Good Friday services will begin at 1:30 p.m.; Adoration of the Cross will be at 7:30 p.m.

Easter vigil services will be at 8:00 p.m. on Holy Saturday.

DELMAR BAPTIST:

Palm Sunday observances will be held at 11:00 a.m. Holy Thursday services will be at 7:30 p.m., and Easter services will be held at the regular 11:00 a.m. service.

Delmar Baptist will sponsor a Cultural Arts Festival at the church on May 8 at 7:00 p.m. Judges will award first, second and third place prizes. Suggested entries are hobbies, collections, portraits, charcoal drawings, land and seascapes, water colors, still life, lithographs, ceramics, sculpture, stitchery, knitting, crocheting, weaving, photography, furniture refinishing, dancing, acting, singing, drama, poetry, etc. Pictures should be framed with fasteners on the back for hanging.

The Delmar Baptist Choir will appear on T.V. on the Protestant Hour, Sunday, March 28 and again on April 18. Each appearance is at 9:00 a.m. on Channel 5. Sue Hudspeth

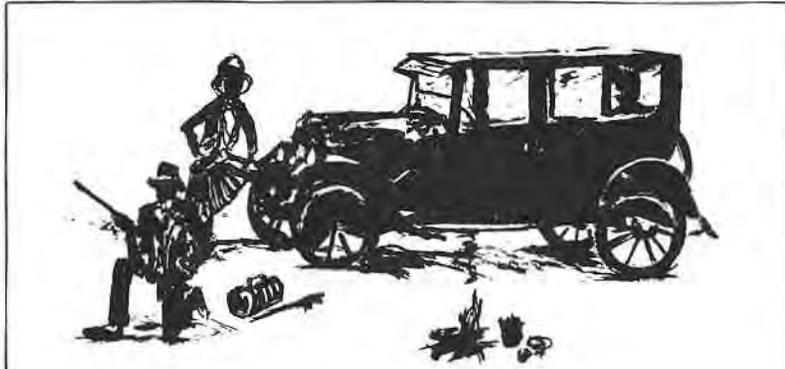
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President,

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VOTE TUESDAY, APRIL 6

Sponsored by Citizens for Darst Committee, Mark Holloran Chairman

Dear Readers,

DeBaliviere, Skinker, & Parkview residents - The Parkview Food Basket has received many letters that are not signed. We would appreciate your signatures so that we can answer them.

Nick Comby

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