

THE NEIGHBORHOOD PAPER

November 1982
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Published by the residents of Skinker-DeBaliviere

Politicians Use Forum to Air Views

by Marcia Kerz

Candidates for area legislative seats differed sharply over tax support for public education at the West End Political Forum, Oct. 14. The Forum was sponsored by the Rosedale Neighborhood Association and the Central West End Association at New City School. Bonita Cornute of KTVI, Channel 2, served as the panel moderator.

PROPOSITION C

Supporting Proposition C, which would provide a one-cent sales tax increase to be used to support public education, were Sen. John Bass, O. L. Shelton, and Elouise Miller. Bass (Democrat, 4th Dist.) is unopposed, and Shelton (Democrat) and Miller (Republican) face each other in the general election for the 57th House of Representatives seat.

Proposition C is the result of an initiative petition pushed by teacher organizations after the Legislature rejected a similar proposal during the 1981 session. The Proposition would increase the state sales tax by one cent, but would require school districts to roll back their property tax rates by an amount equal to 50 percent of the monies received from the increased tax. The new funds would be distributed on a per pupil basis rather than through the equalization portion of the state school aid formula. (The existing formula is designed to use state monies to balance the differences in local property tax wealth among the school districts.) Also, the sales tax monies collected would be earmarked in a special fund to be used only for public education.

Representative Fred Williams (Democrat, 56th Dist.) stated his objections to the Proposition based on his concern about the regressive nature of the sales tax. In the Proposition, the increased tax will be collected on all items, including food and drugs. Representative Russ Egan (Democrat, 64th Dist.) was represented at the Forum by State Representative Stan Piekarski. Piekarski said the City would give up more sales tax revenue than it would receive and stated that Egan opposes the Proposition for this reason. Shelton and Miller indicated general support of the Proposition. Representative Nathaniel Rivers (Democrat, 59th Dist.) said he supports anything for education.

BOND ISSUE, PRISONS, LEGISLATURE CRITICIZED

Another issue drawing sharp comments was the \$600 million bond issue adopted by a narrow margin last June. Despite bipartisan support, the bond issue was criticized heavily by Williams and Piekarski. Both felt that voters were not fully informed of the possible impact of the approval of the bond issue and stated that, in their opinion, a general tax increase would be necessary to retire the bonds.

In response to a question about overcrowding in the prison system, Shelton stated strong opposition to construction of new prisons and stressed that Missouri must use its present structures rather than build additional facilities. He called for greater

stress on values and attitudes at an earlier age in education as a way to improve Missouri's problems with crime and prison overcrowding. Bass commented that Missouri needs to place greater emphasis on prison rehabilitation, while Williams called for an effective classification system and meaningful jobs for prisoners.

Asked to comment on the very lengthy and complex ballot facing voters on Nov. 2, due to the many propositions and amendments the people will be asked to approve, Elouise Miller chose to attack the present ineffectiveness of the state legislature. Instead of making important decisions at the state level as the representatives of the people, Miller claimed, the legislature has found it easier to pass items back to the people to decide. Piekarski agreed that the legislature is elected to make tough decisions, but said that when it is unable to do so, issues are then taken up by the people through the initiative petition process. Williams voiced concern about the initiative petition process and claimed that many times it does more harm than good. Bass was troubled by the difficulty of informing the public about complex issues they are asked to approve. He felt that often people do not receive adequate information to understand the full impact of items on the ballot.

Richard Wilson (Republican, 64th Dist.) was unable to attend the forum. Rep. Rivers departed early due to another commitment and did not participate in the question and answer session.

SPECIAL FEATURE INSIDE Neighborhood Day Care



People's Clinic Burns Mortgage



Burning the paid-off mortgage of the People's Clinic, Delmar at DeBaliviere, Oct. 22, were Board Chairman Leon Mitchell, Director Betty Kerr, Mary Smith, Charlotte Light, Matt Jones (representing Bonhomme

Presbyterian Church), Mary Falk and Mildred Simmons. Ms. Kerr also announced that Monsanto had recently granted the Clinic \$60,000 for a new X-ray unit to expand its services.

Rosedale Christmas Event

The Rosedale Neighborhood Organization, in cooperation with the West End Arts Council and Neighborhood Marketing Services, are planning two Christmas events for Dec. 13.

The first is a reading with instrumental accompaniment of Dylan Thomas's "A Child's Christmas in Wales," to be done at Grace Methodist Church at 7:30 p.m. Refreshments will be served following the presentation.

The second event is a neighborhood Christmas Walk. Neighborhood Marketing sponsors this sort of event each year and this year asked Rosedale to host the Walk. Five or six homes will be selected to be on display (first floor only), decorated for the season. Persons interested in displaying their home may contact Karleen Hoerr at 862-5071.

CASA Announces November Programs

Two one-act operas, fully-staged by the Conservatory Opera Studio and Conservatory Orchestra, will be held at CASA — the St. Louis Conservatory and Schools for the Arts, 560 Trinity Avenue at Delmar, University City. The productions are scheduled for Friday and Sunday, Nov. 5 and 7, at 8 p.m. The operas are "Comedy on the Bridge" by Martinu, sung in English, and "Suor Angelica" by Puccini, sung in Italian.

General admission is \$6 and \$4 for students and senior citizens. Box office: 863-3033, open Monday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Jeffrey Siegel returns to CASA to give the first of two Keyboard Conversations — "Papa Haydn Remembered: Happy 250th Birthday!" The Keyboard Conversations series includes talk, musical highlights, performances and give-and-take with the audience. The Haydn program will be held at 8 p.m. in the Main Auditorium at CASA. The second Keyboard Conversation is "Brahms: The Restrained Romantic" on Wednesday, Dec. 8.

Subscription tickets for the two programs are \$15. Single ticket price is \$9 and \$6 for students and senior citizens.

The St. Louis Conservatory Percussion Ensemble, under the direction of John Kasica, will give a free performance on Monday night, Nov. 15, at 8 p.m. at CASA.

Edward Zambara, world-renowned baritone and voice coach, who holds the chair in voice at the St. Louis Conservatory of Music, will conduct a master class on Wednesday, Nov. 17, in the recital hall at CASA at 10 a.m. Admission to the informal performance-teaching session, in which audiences are encouraged to participate by asking questions, is \$6 and \$4 for students and senior citizens.

Finally, the St. Louis Conservatory String Ensemble, acclaimed by critics in St. Louis and on tour, will give a free concert at 8 p.m. on Monday night, Nov. 22, in the main auditorium.

NOW Meeting

Louise Bauschard, M.S.W., founder of the Women's Self-Help Center, will speak on "Battered Women and the Criminal Justice System" at the next meeting of the Metro St. Louis Chapter of N.O.W. The meeting will be held Nov. 4 at 7:30 p.m. at 6665 Delmar, Room 303, in University City. The night's program will begin at 8:15 p.m. and is open to the public.



Grace United Methodist Plans 90th Anniversary

On Sunday, Nov. 21, neighbors will hear the bells of "Grace" pealing for joy. The occasion will be the celebration of the church's 90th birthday. Grace church was founded in 1892. The present building was originally built on Lindell Boulevard. In response to the needs of changing times it was dismantled and rebuilt, stone by stone, in 1913-14

at its present location at Skinker and Waterman. Now the ministry, headed by Dr. John N. Doggett, Jr., and the membership look forward to another new year of service to God in this community. There will be a program of celebration at a Thanksgiving breakfast at 8:30 a.m. on Nov. 21. Neighbors are invited to attend this breakfast and the 11 a.m. worship service.

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Guidelines for Submitting Copy

The Paper welcomes unsolicited articles and letters. Because of the small size and volunteer nature of the writing staff, the quality and range of The Paper has always depended in large part on submissions from non-staff area residents.

All material—articles, letters, notices, classified ads—must be typewritten on opaque paper, double-spaced, and signed. Signatures on correspondence to the editor may, on publication, be omitted by request. Calendar listings should be phoned or mailed to the staff member responsible for the Calendar of Events. Deadline for all copy is the 15th of the month.

In a news article it is essential that the writer state the most important information in the first paragraph. The writer is responsible for the accuracy of data, including times, dates, locations and particularly the spelling of names.

Any pictures or illustrations submitted should be in black and white.

The editor retains the right to omit or alter any material.

Send all correspondence to 6124 Westminster. Deadline: 15th of the month.

The Saint Louis Symphony Society and Mark Twain Banks present



CHAMBER MUSIC ST. LOUIS

8 p.m., Monday, November 8

Grace United Methodist Church, 6199 Waterman

Special Guest Artist Philippe Entremont, Piano
And Members of the Saint Louis Symphony Orchestra

PISTON Divertimento
STRAVINSKY Suite Italienne
WIENIAWSKI Etudes-Caprices for Two Violins
BEETHOVEN Piano Quartet in E-flat major
Philippe Entremont and the Trio Cassatt

General admission: \$6
Students \$3.50 (ID required, 2 tickets per ID)
Tickets available at area outlets, or call 534-1700
to charge on MasterCard or Visa.

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November Calendar

- 1 RAVEN presents: A Men's Forum, "Your Wife Has Been Raped. How Can a Husband Help?" 7:30 p.m., 6665 Delmar, Room 302.
- 4 NOW meeting, 7:30 p.m., 6665 Delmar, Room 303.
- 5-6 Mustard Seed Festival Boutique and Flea Market. First Unitarian Church, 5007 Waterman.
- 7 West End Neighborhood Arts Council and Rosedale Neighborhood Association present St. Louis Brass Quintet. Delmar Baptist Church. 7:30 p.m.
- 8 SDCC meeting, 7:30 p.m. Call 862-5122 for location.
- 9 Washington Heights Neighborhood Association Board Meeting. 7:30 p.m., Hamilton School.
- 11 New City School Parent-Teacher conferences. No school.
- 12 New City School In Service. No school.
- 12 Delmar Senior Adults. Trip to Hawkin's House, 10 a.m., Delmar Baptist Church. Lunch \$1.50.
- 13 St. Roch's and Grace Methodist co-sponsor Red Cross Bloodmobile. St. Roch's basement, 310 Rosedale, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m.
- 14 Delmar Baptist Church concert: Christine Armistead, soprano, Carl Smith, organ. Works by Reger, Heiller, Hindemith, Smith. No charge. 4 p.m. 6195 Washington.
- 17 Rosedale Neighborhood Association Potluck Dinner. Scariot Hall, 6:30 p.m.
- 19 Delmar Senior Adults. Making Christmas Gifts for Children and Thanksgiving Dinner, 10 a.m., Delmar Baptist Church. Lunch \$1.50.
- 20 Yoga Center: Monthly Vegetarian Dinner and Lecture. 6:30 p.m., 6002 Pershing. \$4 or bring vegetarian dish to feed 8.



St. Louis Brass Quintet in Free Concert

The West End Neighborhood Arts Council and the Rosedale Neighborhood Association will present a free performance on Sunday, Nov. 7, at 7:30 p.m. by the Saint Louis Brass Quintet at Delmar Baptist Church, 6195 Washington Avenue at Skinker.

The Saint Louis Brass Quintet has been bringing their polished, unique blend of performance conversation and musical demonstration to hundreds of Midwest audiences since 1964. One reviewer wrote of a recent concert: "What fun it is to go to a concert where the performers obviously are enjoying themselves as much as the audience." Another said, "the atmosphere was relaxed and informal... and how marvelously they play!"

Following the performance the Rosedale Neighborhood Association will be hosting a reception for the performers and audience.

This concert is funded by The Missouri Arts Council, The Arts and Humanities Commission of St. Louis, Rosedale Neighborhood Association and the Skinker-DeBali-viere Community Council.

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November Events Slated at SLU

St. Louis University's department of theatre arts presents Lanford Wilson's 1980 Pulitzer Prize-winning "Talley's Folly," Nov. 17-20, 8 p.m. in the University Theatre, 3733 W. Pine Blvd. \$3, \$2 students and senior citizens. For reservations call 658-2998.

The Amici Quartet will give a concert Nov. 15, 8:15 p.m., at The Samuel Cupples House, 3673 W. Pine, on the St. Louis University campus. Free. Call 658-2410.

The St. Louis University Jazz Band will perform in concert Nov. 19, 8 p.m., in the Sesquicentennial Room, Busch Memorial Center, 20 N. Grand Blvd. at Laclede Ave. \$1, \$2 at the door. Call 658-2410.

A recital featuring Susan McDuffee, mezzo-soprano, and William Martin, piano, takes place Nov. 29, 8:15 p.m., in St. Louis University's DuBourg Concert Hall, 221 N. Grand Blvd. Free. Call 658-2410.



Bloodmobile Visits Area

There will be a Red Cross Bloodmobile, co-sponsored by St. Roch's Church and Grace Methodist Church, on Saturday, Nov. 13, in St. Roch's basement hall, 310 Rosedale, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The Red Cross has discontinued blood collecting at their Lindell office, so this will be the most convenient sight for blood donors in this area.

For more information, call Rose Storey, 727-1727 (home) or 622-4438 (office), Gloria Broun (727-7285) or Dorothy Dolan (726-0588).



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Dee Schoenfeld told The Paper that day care provider Loretta Lloyd, 6000 McPherson, (above) gave her son "a well-balanced program—pre-academic skills, needed con-

tact with other children, discipline, art activities and field trips—that prepared Jeremy for a pre-school setting."

The editors of The Paper recognize the widespread need for quality day care and pre-school programs for working parents in our neighborhood. While we applaud (and secretly envy, at times) parents who remain at home with their offspring in the early, formative years, we know that personal choice and hard necessity have made child care a part of many family routines. And many of these parents, as well as their children, apparently find such arrangements not only convenient, but enriching experiences. Child care also affects the family budget, but costs vary greatly.

The Paper cannot endorse or recommend any provider or facility. Yet, in an effort to aid in our readers' search for good and reasonable child care, we present this special Guide to Child Care for Skinker-DeBaliviere Neighbors.

Debbie Gregg offers the advice of an experienced parent in determining your own priorities for evaluating the various sorts of child care available.

The Paper's editors have assembled a chart listing some of the institutional child care programs within a half-mile of our area.

Licensed, private day care providers abound in the same geographic area, too many for us to list, much less describe. Those pictured here represent the range of home care available. For the names of licensed providers in our area and an explanation of what licensing means, contact the Child Day Care Association, 241-3161, or the Missouri Division of Family Services, 444-7210

Neighbors Guide to Child C

Name/Address Phone	Episcopal Neighborhood School, 854 Goodfellow at Cates; 361-0105	Grace Pre-School, 6199 Waterman at Skinker; 863-1992	Joint Community Program Pre-School, 826 Union at Delmar; 367-2112	Jubilee School, 6003 Kingsbury at Des Peres; 721-4788	New City School, 5209 Waterman at Lake; 367-6411
Description	Two classrooms, multi-purpose room, kitchen, playground	Four rooms and playground at church building	Two classrooms, indoor play area	Three classrooms and common room in Grace and Peace Church; play area across street.	several large classrooms, art room; other faculty and facilities of school shared with gr. 1-6; pre-school children involved in activities with older children, too.
Enrollment	50	24	25	55	20 (3-4 yrs.); 36 (4-5 yrs.); 39 (5-6 yrs.)
Size of Staff	Two lay, two assistants, volunteers, student aides (10:1 ratio)	Two full-time; three part-time aides; one student	Two teachers, two volunteers	Four teachers and a secretary	Two (3-4); Three (4-5); Three (5-6) plus other faculty and specialists
Hours open	8:30 a.m.-3 p.m.	9-12 noon	8:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m.	8:30 a.m.-3 p.m.	(3-4): 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m.; (4-5): 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m.; 7:30 a.m.-6 p.m. available at extra cost; all-summer program available
Ages Accepted	3-5	3-4	3-5	3 years and up (through 4th grade)	3 years and up (through 6th gr.)
Meals	Breakfast and lunch	snack	snacks		snacks
Activities Scheduled Outside Facility	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Objectives	develop language, social physical skills	develop social, emotional and cognitive skills (reading readiness and vocabulary)	primarily socialization and preparation for kindergarten/first grade	develop ability to care for self and others according to the gospels	socialization; development of independence, decision-making skills; pre-reading and pre-math skills; nutrition awareness
Cost		\$60/month	\$2.00/wk.	pre-school and kindergarten: \$600/yr. (Will sponsor low-income children)	

Choosing Your Child Care Situation

by Deborah Teepe Gregg

For parents who work outside the home, finding a suitable day care arrangement for children can be a difficult and time-consuming task. Options vary from individuals watching children in their homes to private day care programs to franchised schools.

In selecting a situation, most parents are trying to meet a particular set of needs. Priorities usually are different for each parent, but the list often consists of the following:

- location;
- costs fitting the parents' budgets;
- hours of child care provided daily;

- teacher-to-child ratio;
- facilities (types of equipment and playthings, degree of cleanliness, appropriateness to children's ages, and safety);
- environment (loving, formal, unstructured, highly disciplined, etc.); and
- philosophy (emphasis on socialization, academics, discipline, language skills, etc.).

Answers to some questions can usually be found through phone calls or brochures. However, the most effective way to determine whether a provider or school is appropriate for your child is to visit and observe the program.



The fantastic playground at Washington University's Nursery School can be glimpsed by drivers on Millbrook Blvd. as well as by the children in every classroom in the school.



New City School's pre-school program boasts a large building, many teachers and

the largest sand-covered playground west of the Mississippi.

My husband Gordon and I have become quite skilled at observing schools. In the past four years our two children have attended five pre-schools which required observation of about a dozen programs during our selection process, both in Phoenix, AZ, and in St. Louis.

Our first pre-school experience (when we lived in Phoenix) was a positive one for our son Ryan. At the time, though, we did not know why we liked it. It was not until we moved to St.-Louis at the end of 1980 that we began to formulate our criteria for

a pre-school program, after we naively enrolled Ryan in a school we did not observe and which we found unacceptable.

Interviews with two other Rosedale Neighborhood parents surfaced similar first-time, positive child-care arrangements.

Arline and Richard Webb of the 6100 block of Pershing have sent their four-year-old daughter Erica to a neighborhood woman's home for at least one and one-half years on a part-time basis. Like us, they found a day care situation when they weren't looking.

Care

The St. Michael School Child Care Center, 6345 Wydown; 721-1502

Washington University Nursery School Kindergarten, Millbrook Square Apts. (between Skinker and Big Bend); 889-6689

use church facilities; three carpeted classrooms, science area, two art areas

on Wash. U. campus in apt. complex; large classrooms opening on large playground

130

60 in a.m.
40 in p.m.

10 certified teachers; 7 aides; music teacher; science teacher (9:1 ratio)

a.m. and p.m. staffs: 3 or more for each session, all with degrees; music teacher; science consultant

8 a.m.-5 p.m.

9-11:45 a.m.
12:30-3:15 p.m.
(8-week summer session planned for '83)

3 years and up (through 1st gr.)

3-5

snacks

Yes

Yes

strong academic program with balance between structured and unstructured. Christian influence. Can give individual program for each child.

develop each child's personality, ability to learn and live with others, cognitive skills.

1/2 day Sept.-May: \$765
full day: \$1575
(takes about 1 year advance registration)



Youngsters at the St. Michael School enjoy a range of teachers, equipment and activities

in a spacious building.

Erica's grandparents had been watching her while Arline worked outside the home. A friend recommended the nearby provider as a means of socialization for Erica. "I called (the woman) and asked her about sitting. I thought it would be nice to have (Erica) with other kids," Arline said.

She decided to leave Erica there part of the time and with her parents part of the time. The sitter's approach is school-like in that "she plays with the children," Arline related. "They go on nature walks, sing songs. They used to go to the library," Arline added, "She has lots of different things for the kids to play with, both indoors and outdoors."

Arline has her own priority, that of socialization, for putting Erica in a day care setting. "It gets her with other children.

There are none on our block who are her age. I think she would be very introverted if she didn't go," Arline explained.

Annie Martin of the 5900 block of Waterman also is happy with the program she found for her five-month-old son, who is in a day care program at a local church. However, unlike Arline, Annie spent four months looking.

"I looked around a lot and was having trouble finding one that takes babies," Annie explained. "I talked to people about watching him in their homes, but it's just inconvenient. Here (at the church-affiliated program) I don't have to worry about people watching him while they're trying to do house-keeping or fitting him into their routines."

continued on page 6



Three- and four-year-olds at Grace and Peace's Jubilee School set out for a field

trip with their teacher.

day care

continued from page 5



Judge Anna Forder told The Paper that she is "very satisfied" with her choice of Blanche Robinson, 5700 Waterman (above) as a day care provider for two of her children. "You really have to . . . choose the

best alternative to yourself. . . There are pluses and minuses. I think I could do a better job, of course, but you don't have that choice. And you see that she does some things better than you are able to do.

For Annie the most important criteria was finding a loving environment. "I just wanted to make sure someone was going to hold him," she said.

Working with a ratio of sixteen infants to four adults, the care-givers Annie found are "cooperative and loving," she said. "He (her son) gets a lot of stimulation and really excellent care."

How you as a parent establish the priorities for your day care needs can be different for each child in the family. Start by asking yourself what your child needs most in daily care. Try asking questions like these:

- what do I want my child to do in a day care setting? (types of activities);
- how do I want the care-giver to relate to my child? what do I see as the primary role of the care-giver? (disciplinarian, teacher, friend, etc.);
- how do I want the care-giver to relate to me? (is it important for me to be able to talk to the care-giver about my child on a regular basis; what kind of information do I want to hear, etc.); and
- what types of toys and materials do I want my child to use? (equipment to stimulate gross motor skills, like climbers, bikes, tumbling mats; paints; musical instruments; blocks; water; sand, etc.).



Maverine Wilson, 6000 Washington, specializes in day care for infants—a service often difficult to find.

Rosedale Vicissitudes

by Lisa Horner

Welcome to the neighborhood to Karen and Jerry McClure and their two children. They have recently moved to the 6100 block of McPherson. Not so new to the neighborhood, but new to 6100 Washington, are John and Theresa Hickey and their son John. A warm welcome to both families.

Also on 6100 Washington, the Bell-McLaffertys are expecting their second child, and a little brother or sister for Maureen. Congratulations Pat and Roy.

On Oct. 10 at St. Mary's Hospital, Betty Burke, 6100 McPherson, gave birth to a daughter Deborah Ann, weighing 5 pounds and 9 ounces. Deborah was about a month early, however, both mom and baby are doing well. Deborah is the fourth child for

Frank and Betty and their third daughter.

Congratulations to John "Hitch" Powell who has recently begun a new job with the Ungashick Agency. Hitch lives with his wife, Mary, in the 6100 block of Westminster.

Marvin Nodiff, 6100 Westminster, recently won first place in St. Louis University Law School's Nathan Burke Memorial Competition. He received a cash prize and his entry—a legal research paper—will be entered, in the national competition of the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers.

Don't forget the Brass Quintet at Delmar Baptist on Nov. 7 and the Rosedale Pot-Luck on the 18th.

After you have given some thought to an ideal setting for your child, gather information about possible day care or pre-school situations, either by phone or by gathering literature. Be sure to get recommendations from neighbors and friends, asking what they like most about a place and why. Of course, cost and location (is it convenient to my route to work?) are other considerations.

The next and probably most important step is to visit a few of the day care facilities while they are in operation. Stay as long as possible (a whole day would be ideal) and ask questions. As you observe, look for answers to questions such as these:

- how do the children interact with each other (aggressively, eager and willing to share, respectfully, friendly, etc.);
- how do they interact with the care-giver(s)? (readily approach the adult, eagerly respond to her or his requests, ask questions, etc.);
- how does the care-giver interact with the children? (affectionately, attentively, spends time with each child, etc.);
- how much individual attention does each child get?
- do the children have an appropriate amount of responsibility, freedom and independence appropriate for their ages?
- do the activities seem appropriate for the children's ages?
- how comfortable do the children seem to be about a visiting adult's presence?

The observations of the day care setting probably will cause you to revise your priorities. That's not necessarily bad. A criteria that seemed important to you initially might lessen in comparison to other advantages.

This revised set of priorities, your own instinctive "feel" about a setting and your child's response to a trial day in that setting should tell you whether you have picked the proper situation for your child's needs and your own peace of mind.



Arline Webb told The Paper that she considers home care provider Gertha Wimby, 5900 Waterman (above) "a really, really nice woman. She has taken child care courses, and I think the most children she takes any day is six."

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Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Council

Old, Unfinished Council Business Clouds Its Future

Interpretive Report

by David L. Garin

After sitting through the two-hour meeting of the Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Council on Oct. 11, I came away with a handful of notes and an impression that the Council is an organization trying to find its purpose for existence.

Old business was my reason for attendance. The Constitution and By-laws for SDCC are being rewritten, and I was eager to hear them discussed. By-laws Committee chairman Ray Breun gave a progress report. Though the documents are still in working draft form, they were sufficiently complete for distribution and review by the Council. The Committee now plans to have a discussion on the draft at the December Council meeting. I was not able to get a copy of the draft ("there aren't enough copies for the Council members") but managed to quickly read someone else's copy.

It is a very important document. Its goals are clarification of purpose, clarification of structure (committees and procedures to be followed), definitions of representation, membership, and of geographic area. I was surprised to learn that an accurate definition of the geographical area covered by SDCC does not exist and that "core area" and "service area" will be designated for the first time.

This is the first major rewrite of the SDCC Constitution and By-laws since the 1960s and much has changed in that time period. The present Council is composed of representatives of neighborhoods (e.g., Rose-dale Neighbors) and institutions (e.g., Washington University). The representatives' obligations and responsibilities are primarily to their constituencies. The Committee feels that the Council should be restructured so that there is a balance between belonging to a part of the neighborhood and conceiving of the whole neighborhood objectively. The Constitution and By-laws will be the backbone of the new SDCC; discussion at the December meeting should be vigorous. Additional members of the committee are Jim McCloud, Harold Williams, and Dan McGuire.

The next order of old business was also of major importance. Last month's resignation of the executive director, Ron Laboe, left an administrative void at SDCC. The Council immediately initiated a search for his replacement, seeking applicants from our Skinker-DeBaliviere neighborhood only.

According to Harold Williams, a member of the Selection Committee for a New Executive Director, the criteria for evaluating applicants for the position are: (1) demonstrated participation within the community; (2) experience in organizational activities on the community level and supervision of other individuals; (3) experience with housing and the bureaucratic paperwork involved; and (4) experience in grant and proposal writing.

For this the salary offered is \$13-15,000, and by Oct. 11, 14 individuals had already applied for the position. Karleen Hoerr announced that one of them will be brought to the next Council meeting for approval by the Council. If the proposed candidate does not obtain a favorable majority vote, the search for a new Director will be carried beyond Skinker-DeBaliviere's boundaries.

The last item concerned a nuclear freeze petition, which one of our neighbors wishes the Council to discuss and endorse. A lively discussion concerning "Is this appropriate?" consumed the final half hour. Apart from the issue itself, the significance of the Council debate, it seems to me, was that it dramatized the lack of a clear definition of the role of the Council.

As Council members became entangled in the freeze issue versus its relevance to Council business and constitutional charge, the meeting was assaulted by an additional smoke screen, provided by the St. Louis Fire Department's trying to find the source of obvious combustion fumes in the meeting room. Neither the firefighters or the Council members appeared to resolve their respective problems.

More than a dozen volunteer representatives donated at least two hours of their time to attend that Council meeting in what appeared to be a sincere effort to serve their constituents. Hopefully, with a clearer statement of purpose described in a new Constitution and By-laws, and with an executive director who can define and illuminate important issues for the Board's consideration and action, the welfare of the residents of Skinker-DeBaliviere and the needs of its users can be better addressed. (Mr. Garin points out that Council meetings are open to the public.)

SDCC Adds Freeze and Fire to Agenda

by Arline Webb

The following summarizes the items discussed at the Oct. 11 meeting of the Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Council.

Ray Breun presented the latest draft of the "amended articles of incorporation" and "revised by-laws." Because of the numerous changes proposed, Breun requested that Council members study the draft and comment in writing to the committee during the coming month. These will be considered in the final writing.

The Selection Committee reported that 14 applications were received for the Executive Director's position. Initially, this committee consists of the presidents (or their appointees) of the three neighborhood organizations. After they have reviewed the applications, a representative of each of the four funding institutions in the Council will join the committee to interview the applicants. This committee of seven plans to have a candidate for the Executive Director's position to present to the Board at the November meeting. If the Board does not approve the candidate, a metropolitan-wide search will be initiated.

Bill Keslar moved that Mr. Richard Wilms, of the Nuclear Weapons Freeze Committee, be invited to speak at the next Board meeting. Wilms would like the Council to endorse his committee's resolution to request the President of the U.S. and leaders of the U.S.S.R. to place a freeze on all nuclear testing. The Council rejected this move because members felt that the Council cannot endorse any politically-related issues. Instead, they suggested that Wilms might set up a nuclear arms forum for the entire neighborhood, so that residents can endorse or reject the proposal on an individual basis.

During the meeting, members were entertained by various employees of the Fire Department and Laclede Gas who were called to investigate a suspicious odor at the CWE office. To the accompaniment of sirens, firemen wielding ladders, axes and gaffs, the Council conducted its business. Fortunately, the odor was traced to the furnace, firing up for the first time this fall, and the meeting was adjourned until Monday, Nov. 8, 1982.



Making a clean sweep of the 5900 block alley between Waterman and Pershing Sept. 2 were (from left foreground) George Brown, Jimmy Garrett, (rear) Anthony Long, Kim-

met Harris, Latonga Long, Karen Brown, Shirley Harris and Marvin Long. The clean-up was part of the Operation Brightside "mini-blitz" for our area.

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In Your Ear

by Tom Hoerr

Age seems to be a big topic today. Hardly a news broadcast passes without someone talking about social security benefits, our aging population, and the effects of the baby boom's growing older. Like the weather and inflation, age is something about which there's a lot of talk and precious little action.

I don't know when it first hit me, that I was aging, I mean. Oh, somewhere in my pre-pubescent youth probably, when I was "suddenly" old enough to handle some responsibility heretofore denied me. e.g., "Tommy, make your bed." There then followed a period of many, many years in which aging was something that, well, just happened. You went to school, wasted time, shuffled semi-aimlessly through life, got a job, got another job, went back to school, shuffled semi-directionally through life, and so on. Cars, homes, pets, spouse, kids (others'), and seasons all came and left (more or less, I still have an old car and a semi-old spouse), but one never really aged. Time just passed.

As I move farther into the last half of my thirties (the thirties that precede the forties!), however, my perception of aging is changing. Suddenly it seems, I see the aging process occurring on the actors and sets around me, only now I, too, am in the play.

Nothing big caused me to see the glass of life going from half full to half empty. My father died, but I was far into realizing my own mortality before that happened. No, it was the little things that told me that somewhere somebody was holding a life-stopwatch on me. I remember the first summer that I stopped playing slow-pitch softball. You've got to realize, slow-pitch softball was, at one point in my life, very important indeed. I played on as many teams as would have me. I envisioned myself as a good-field, no-hit third baseman, rightfielder, catcher, whatever. I looked the part, too, as long as ground balls were hit to my left. Then one summer, I really didn't care if I played anymore. No big decision, it just wasn't important enough to decide. Not playing slow-pitch became one of those decisions that you make by not making a decision.

Listening to Cardinal baseball games became very pleasant (this was even during the pre-Whiteyball days). I still kind of cringe at the thought: me, the hyper kid who couldn't sit still, enjoying sitting on the porch listening to the game. Well, at least I don't enjoy wearing an undershirt and drinking a beer while I turn Jack Buck's prose into images! It is a lot more fun to just sit and listen than it used to be, and I don't think that's because Jack has gotten any better.

I've always been a Rolling Stones fan, but recently I find myself noting how good Frank Sinatra sounds. The Stones are still the ultimate ("You can't always get what you want . . ."), but old Blue Eyes is sounding better all the time. Thank heavens I'm not old enough yet to appreciate Lawrence Welk. My taste in books is changing, too. I've just purchased Kissinger's *Years of Upheaval*, yet I haven't gotten around to the latest James Bond epic and it's even in paperback.

An important part of growing older, I think, is a realization of the aging phenomenon and an understanding of the evolution. I am now able to appreciate the small things; no, not the small things, just the things that I used to take for granted. Friendships, always treasured, are now cherished. Sitting on my porch and watching the neighbors trek to and from church, renewed going and coming, is a pleasant experience. Leaves are special now: changing colors, floating, dying, and rustling. The smell of firewood in a safely-tucked chimney makes my Saturday a special one. An evening is completed by a good cigar—well, let's not get carried away—an adequate one anyway.

The Russells of Oak Hill

by Ray Breun

When Bill Russell arrived in St. Louis in February, 1804, the population of the village was barely 900. He tried merchandising and working for a living, but found land speculation much more profitable. He talked his two brothers, James and Joseph, into settling in St. Louis.

Russell Boulevard was named for Bill Russell. His country land was located just south of the Souldard property and was known as Crystal Springs Farm. Comprised of 76 acres, it was adjacent to the Mississippi River. The Russell mansion overlooked the river. The street from the Russell mansion west toward the Oak Hill area is what we now call Russell Boulevard.

Bill Russell also laid out a city in Arkansas known as Little Rock. When the vote was taken by the Arkansas legislature concerning where to locate the state capitol, Little Rock and Cadron were the two contenders. The senate was for Little Rock. Some of the representatives, after buying land in Little Rock from St. Louis land owners, realized the wisdom of voting for Little Rock, and thus the Russell city was made the capitol of Arkansas. Bill Russell was the father of Alton, Illinois, in addition to his Little Rock connections. But the Arkansas story typifies the sort of speculative style typical of the times.

James Russell emulated his brother, Bill, and bought a large estate owned by Henry Shaw just south of St. Louis, adjacent to Tower Grove, called Oak Hill. Jim Russell was in the process of selling it off in 1820 when he discovered a seam of coal on his land. He stayed in town and eventually found clay under the coal. The combination of coal mining and clay mining grew into



Charles M. Russell in his Great Falls, Montana, studio circa 1920. (Courtesy Charles

M. Russell Museum, Great Falls, MT)

the Parker-Russell Firebrick Works of Oak Hill.

Oak Hill's boundaries were Kingshighway, Custine, Arsenal and Tholozan Streets. Comprising 432 acres, the Russell homestead is now a series of subdivisions, and most residents are unaware of the mining history of the area. It became a part of St. Louis in 1855, when the city expanded to what is now Grand Avenue.

One of the sons of James and Lucy Russell was Charles Silas Russell. He settled into the mining and brick business with ease.

He married Elizabeth Mead, the daughter of a silversmith with no mean artistic talent. The offspring of these generations of Russells (the individual most of us will recognize), was the third son of Charles Silas Russell and Elizabeth Mead Russell: Charles Marion Russell.

Charles M. Russell is the most famous descendent of the Russells of Oak Hill. The work of this famous and beloved painter and sculptor in bronze came of a love for the life of the Plains he saw passing away even in his lifetime.

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I don't know where I am headed or how far I have to go, and I certainly am not planning an early exit; no, I won't go gracefully. I am glad somehow, though, that I know I am going so that I can enjoy the passage. Perhaps the best part of being mortal is appreciating it.




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