

the paper

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Jan. SDCC Meeting: Nina Place, Budget on Agenda

by Jo Ann Vatcha

The Jan. 9 meeting of the Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Council had an impressive agenda: Nina Place; the 1984 SDCC Budget; and the proposal of new committees redesigned to reach into the community for greater participation in the work of the Council.

NINA PLACE

Alderman Dan McGuire presented Board Bill 674, which he has already introduced, with a public hearing set for Jan. 25. As reported in the December issue, the bill designates certain specific buildings within the Nina Place area as blighted, allowing a developer to be eligible for tax abatement once a redevelopment plan is approved. Pantheon Corporation has purchased several buildings and has plans to renovate them as apartments for rent.

Designation as a blighted area can provide several incentives to current owners, as well as to developers, according to Alderman McGuire:

- 1) Tax abatement incentives.
- 2) Capital improvements to be made by the City if the entire area is developed, and
- 3) A 5-year "obsolescence" tax freeze for owners who renovate properties.

Other property owners will be required to maintain external property standards up to the building code, just as anyone else in the neighborhood and city. Only those wishing to apply for tax abatement or tax credit need to bring the property up to the more specialized standards.

Conflicting views and questions were raised at the December meeting of the Council (held after December issue of *The Paper*). Those issues and responses by McGuire are as follows:

- 1) Effect on insurance rates
McGuire: None
- 2) Effect on City services
McGuire: No reduction in current services; actual improvements result from sidewalk and curb additions.
- 3) If buildings are not listed in this bill as blighted, could they be blighted in future for new owner?
McGuire: Yes, but that option may not be available.
- 4) Protection for low-income families?
McGuire: Normally a developer will structure low-income housing in his plan
- 5) Willis Lloyd said, "It will be a difficult to sell the bill in light of Tiffany."
McGuire: "If people are informed of the truth, the bill should have no difficulty."

At the January meeting, the Council voted unanimously in favor of two motions concerning Nina Place:

- To put SDCC on record as supporting Board Bill 674, instructing the executive director to inform the appropriate aldermanic committee of its support.
- To give a round of applause to Alderman McGuire for his hard work in seeing the project through to this point.

"A Piece of the Roch"

Ray Breun, St. Roch's representative to the Council, announced the formation of a new non-profit corporation, to be called "A Piece of the Roch," which has applied for 501 (c) (3) status. This corporation, funded personally by Father Sal Polizzi, has purchased two buildings and one vacant lot from LRA: 5858 Nina Place, 5900 McPherson, and 5941-43 McPherson. The reason for this investment is to participate in the Nina Place redevelopment effort.

BUDGET

The Operation Budget for 1984, presented by Treasurer Kathleen Hamilton, included some important differences from previous budgets:

- Delmar Baptist and Grace Methodist churches have reduced their contributions.
- Parkview Agents have offered to contribute annually, though not enough to compensate for the above losses.
- The Council will be operating at a deficit, and
- Cuts will be made to reduce this deficit (details in the expanded budget to be presented in full at the next meeting).

NEW COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Council President Karleen Hoerr said the goal in developing new committees is to involve residents throughout the community in the work of the Council. These will be standing committees, and each will include at least one Council member. The actual tasks of the committees will be determined by the new groups, which will then report to the Council. The Council is actively seeking volunteers for the following committees:

- *Development Committee* — purpose is to develop fund-raising strategies.
- *Finance Committee* — purpose is to regulate and control the budget.
- *Housing Committee* — purpose is to

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Party for The Paper

Mark March 31 on your calendars. In honor of (or in spite of?) April Fool's Day, there will be a fund-raising party for *The Paper*. So, plan to support your paper, catch up with neighbors with whom you have lost touch during the long, cold winter, and meet new friends. Details will be announced in the March issue.



CAO volunteers Rita Magyar, Anne Morris, and Mary Watkins (from left to right).

Photo by Ed Stout

The Real Meaning of Neighbor to Mary, Rita & Anne

by Ed Stout

She has lived in the Parkview section of Skinker-DeBaliviere for twenty-nine years. Prior to that, while her husband attended law school at Washington University, she lived over a store on Delmar. Her five boys all graduated from St. Roch's, where she served as the first female president of the school board five years ago.

Today, she hosts a weekly scripture study group in her home and represents St. Roch's parish on the Catholic Archdiocesan North Deanery Council, where she chairs the Social Ministry Committee.

"She is the 'Boss,'" say her co-workers, Rita and Anne. "Not really," says Mary, "We're a team." Well, since everyone else interviewed for this article seemed to agree that Mary was the "Boss," we will take her word for it — Mary, Rita, and Anne are a team.

Mary (Mrs. Hiram) Watkins is chairman of the Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Council's Social Welfare Committee. The committee — composed of representatives of other community institutions and concerned citizens — is responsible to the SDCC Board for identifying resources available throughout the city and linking those resources with SD residents.

Rita is Rita (Mrs. Lou) Magyar. She has lived in the neighborhood for twenty years and has five children. Rita has had a direct impact on the lives of all SD residents, as chairman of the Girl Scout Cookie Drive for the past 25 years. (Note: she also has a four-year-old purebred Boxer to give away.)

The third member of the team is Anne (Mrs. John) Morris. Anne knows she has lived here for sixteen years because the oldest of her three children was born during their first year here, and she is now sixteen; her two oldest also attended St. Roch's,

while her youngest is in the 6th grade here. Ann is also volunteer coordinator for the St. Louis Nuclear Freeze Committee.

Together — Mary, Rita, and Anne — form "The Team," the volunteer staff of the Community Action Office opened in March 1983 by the SDCC Social Welfare Committee. Their job is to link people needing help with other neighbors willing to help and with other resources throughout the city.

Are you able to cut grass or shovel snow for someone who is infirm or disabled? Are you hungry or unable to pay those rising utility bills? Are you looking for ways to survive in these tough economic times? Are you willing to help a neighbor who has fallen on tough economic times? Do you have a "neighbor-helping-neighbor" idea and want some help to organize it?

Call on "The Team" — 862-5122.

"The Team" has received training in basic information and referral services, how to fill out applications for energy assistance and circuit breaker tax-credits for senior citizens. They are available at the SDCC office, 6008 Kingsbury, on Tuesday and Thursday mornings or at other times by appointment.

Mary "The Boss" Watkins sums up the purpose of the Community Action Office in these few words: "No one should go lacking, . . . especially in a neighborhood as rich in resources and spirit as Skinker-DeBaliviere."

Thanks for the reminder, Boss! And, don't forget to pass on our gratitude to the other members of "The Team." Better yet, why don't you, the reader, call the CAO (862-5122) and offer your help as a "Thank You" to Mary, Rita, and Anne for reminding us what "neighbor" really means here in Skinker-DeBaliviere.

Board to Consider Name Change

by Katie Kurtz

What is in a name? Associations of time, place, and traditions to list a few characteristics. What is in a name such as *The Paper*? Does that name represent what *The Paper* is today and into what it might be developing?

The Board of Directors which works to set the paper's policy will be considering a possible change in the publication's name. A decision will be made by the time we take our summer break (the June issue being the last until September). Because we publish for the community, we are requesting and would like input from our readers.

Reasons for considering a change include: Does the name *The Paper* describe the community it represents — geographically, demographically, or philosophically; is it distinctive and does it have recognition both within and outside the neighborhood? does it attract or detract advertisers; does it sound and look professional or is it cute? All these questions relate to the image the publication has. What the Board must do is determine what that image is and whether or not the present name adds to, detracts from, or does nothing for that image.

In the December issue, I outlined what *The Paper* was and quoted from our articles of incorporation. We are an educational publication dedicated to improving the quality of life for all the members of the community by providing information services, issues, potential problems, and their solutions. We hope to entertain, to stimulate interest in the neighborhood, and further the awareness the community has of itself and also to make those outside our immediate environs aware of the neighborhood. Does the name *The Paper* describe those purposes?

I have avoided using "Skinker-DeBaliviere" in discussing our neighborhood

because I wonder if that accurately describes *The Paper's* community. At the present, copies of the paper are distributed door-to-door from Union (on the east) to Melville (the western boundary of Parkview) and from Forest Park Parkway on the south) to Delmar (on the north); businesses up and down Delmar (including the U. City Loop), along DeBaliviere and on Pershing receive papers for their customers; the schools — public, private and parochial, and Washington University, have copies available for students, faculty, parents, and visitors; and people (many of whom live outside the area) attending services and programs at the neighborhood churches also have access to *The Paper*. We reach beyond the immediate Skinker-DeBaliviere neighborhood. Does our name represent that fact? That type of distribution and potential exposure is important to advertisers — a primary and overwhelming source of income.

The Paper has been a part of our neighborhood for fourteen years and has developed an image and reputation which should not be frivolously tossed aside. There are many who feel *The Paper* is an excellent name and it is important that they speak out in eloquent support of it.

The decision to change any name — be it one's own, that of a corporation, or that of a publication — should be done with deliberation and with an open-minded attitude. If you have an opinion one way or another, or have any suggestions, please contact one (or more) of the following Board members: Ray Breun, Karen Bynum, Elizabeth Freeman, Tom Hoerr, Marcia Kerz, Venita Lake, Candace Page, King Schoenfeld, JoAnn Vatcha, Kathleen Williams, or me. We DO want to hear from you — our readers. You can also write *The Paper*, 6008 Kingsbury, St. Louis, MO 63112.



by Joyce Criglar

As a renter, there are a number of ways in which you can conserve energy and cut utility costs. Since most renters do not expect to live in the same place very long, any conservation measures should be inexpensive and require little work. *Such low cost alternatives do exist and can reduce energy use by 15-30 percent*

Around the house there are several ways to lower energy consumption.

CUTTING ENERGY COSTS

Water Heating

Add Insulation to the Water Heater

Even though they have some insulation, water heaters still lose a lot of heat right through their walls. This causes more energy to be used to keep the water hot. Ready-for-use water heater insulation jackets are available at local hardware or plumbing stores for \$10 to \$20. Savings of \$11 per year on gas water heaters or \$13-\$20 on electric models can be achieved.

Put Aerators, or Water Flow Restrictors in Water Faucets and Shower Heads

One-third of the hot water and energy flowing through a faucet can be saved by installing an aerator, which mixes air with water flowing through the tap. The aerator reduces the amount of water used but the flow feels almost the same.

Heating and Cooling

Weatherstripping Doors and Windows

Weatherstripping reduces heated air losses through cracks around the exterior doors and windows of the home. Generally speaking, the more expensive types are more effective. The space heating savings

from weatherstripping can be in the range of 15-20 percent of the winter heating bill.

Installing weatherstripping not only reduces energy use, it makes apartments more comfortable by plugging up chilly drafts. Weatherstripping is available at local hardware stores. It is easily installed with basic household tools and instructions are usually included on the package.

Adjust Thermostat Setting

If the thermostat is adjusted to a setting of 68 degrees in the winter and 78 degrees in the summer, you can save a lot of heating and cooling energy. If the thermostat is lowered to 55 degrees on winter nights, 5-25 percent can be saved on the winter energy bill.

Renters can do a lot to save energy. If you share the building with others, share with them these energy saving tips. Working with others will make energy conservation less expensive and even more beneficial.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR UTILITIES

Heat Assistance applications are being taken at the CAO office, 6008 Kingsbury. Volunteers will be taking applications until April 30, 1984. Call 862-5122 to make an appointment. The assistance offered is a one-time payment, based on income and family size, and is sent directly to Laclede Gas, Union Electric, or your heating supplier. If your utilities are included in your rent, you can still receive assistance.

the paper

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Advertising Rates

Display Advertising: col. width, 2 1/2". Minimum ad size, 1" x 1 col. 2" x 1 col.: \$22/insertion; (10% discount 5 to 8 issues contract; 15% discount 9 issues contract). For complete list of sizes and rates, write *The Paper*, c/o 6008 Kingsbury, 63112, or call 727-6377

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 6008 Kingsbury . Deadline: 15th of the month.

The Saint Louis Symphony Society
and Mark Twain Banks present

Grace United Methodist Church
6199 Waterman



CHAMBER MUSIC ST. LOUIS 1983-84

8:00 p.m., Monday, February 20

Special Guest Artist **Seth Carlin**, piano
Members of the Saint Louis Symphony Orchestra
PROKOFIEV Sonata for Cello and Piano
ROCHBERG Sonata for Viola and Piano
PROKOFIEV Sonata in C minor for Two Violins
MOZART Quartet in D minor for Flute and Strings

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.

25% discount for groups of 20 or more.

Call 533-2500, ext. 293, for group reservations.

*Saint Louis
Symphony Orchestra*

Leonard Slatkin, Music Director and Conductor

February Calendar

- 1 Exhibition of Pressed Glass of America and Europe. Gallery 120, Art Museum, Forest Park. (Through 2/26)
Exhibition: "Paul Strand: The Range of Expression, 1914-1967," 70 photographs. Cohen Gallery, Art Museum. (Through 2/26)
- 3 "The Big Sleep" (1946), film of Raymond Chandler story, featuring Humphrey Bogart as Detective Philip Marlowe. Art Museum Auditorium. 1:30, 7 and 9 p.m. \$2.
Bill Evans Dance Company, Washington Univ. Edison Theater. \$8. Call 889-6543 for information. (Also 2/4) (See related article.)
- 4 Films for Black History Month: "Now is the Time," "Got to Tell It." Cabanne Library, 1106 Union. 2:30 p.m.
- 7 "JOM" (1981), film by Samb-Makharam, leader in new African cinema. Art Museum Auditorium. 5:30 and 8 p.m. \$2.
History of Abortion Rights, Ms. Laura Cohen of National Abortion Rights Action League presents. Monthly meeting of N.O.W. 6665 Delmar, Room 303. 7:30 p.m.
- 9 Informational open house to outline the light-rail alternatives analysis report released 1/25 by East-West Gateway Coordinating Council. Clayton Community Center, 2 Mark Twain Circle, 6 to 9 p.m. For more information, call 421-4220.
- 10 "Murder She Said" (1962), film of Agatha Christie's story, starring Margaret Rutherford as Jane Marple. Art Museum Auditorium. 1:30, 7 and 9 p.m. \$2.
Jose Limon Dance Company, Washington Univ. Edison Theater. \$8. 8 p.m. (Also 2/11 at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m.) Call 889-6543. (See related article.)
- 11 Speed Skating Meet, Steinberg Skating Rink, Forest Park 5:30-7:30 p.m. Free.
"Griots & Other Storytellers," program of African and Afro-American folktales, poetry for children, presented by Afrikan People's Art Continuum. Cabanne Library. 3:30 p.m.
Cornerstone work day. 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Meet at Grace & Peace, 6003 Kingsbury. For information, call 862-7343.
Films: "James Weldon Johnson," "Scott Joplin," "Yonder Come Day." Cabanne Library. 2:30 p.m.
- 12 Realist Painters Group Exhibition, including St. Louis artists. Fontbonne Library. Open daily. Opening, Feb. 12, 3 to 5 p.m. Free.
- 13 Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Council meets. SDCC office, 6008 Kingsbury. 7:30 p.m.
- 14 Sweetheart Skate, Steinberg Skating Rink, Forest Park. Couples admitted two for the price of one. Call 361-5103 for schedule.
"The Story of a Love Affair" (1950), Antonioni film adapted from James Cain's "The Postman Always Rings Twice." Art Museum Auditorium. 5:30 and 8 p.m. \$2.
Washington Heights Neighbors meets. Hamilton School. 7:30 p.m.
- 16 Skinker-DeBaliviere Business Association. Monthly lunch meeting. 11:30 a.m. Call SDCC office for details, 862-5122.
- 17 "The Pink Panther" (1964), film starring Peter Sellers as Inspector Clouseau. Art Museum Auditorium. 1:30, 7 and 9 p.m. \$2.
- 18 "The Beautiful, the Sublime and the Picturesque: British Influences on American Landscape Painting." Steinberg Hall, Washington Univ. Open daily. Free. (Through 3/8) (See related article.)
Film: "Benjamin Banneker: The Man Who Loved the Stars." Cabanne Library. 2:30 p.m.
- 20 Chamber music concert, St. Louis Symphony. Grace United Methodist Church. 8 p.m.
Women's 12-week exercise class begins. St. Roch's Gym. 8 p.m. \$9 fee. (See related article.)
- 21 "Turumba" (1983), film of impact of European capitalism on small Filipino village. Subtitles. Art Museum Auditorium. 5:30 and 8 p.m. \$2.
- 24 "By Heart and by Hand: American Folk Art from Missouri Collections." Special Exhibition. Art Museum. (Through 5/20)
"Murder by Death" (1976), film of Neil Simon spoof of thrillers. Art Museum Auditorium. 1:30, 7 and 9 p.m. \$2.
- 25 Films: "Jackie Robinson," "Rosey Grier: The Courage to Be Me." Cabanne Library. 2:30 p.m.
- 26 Annual Ice Show, Steinberg Skating Rink, Forest Park. 1:30 p.m. Free.
- 27 "Healthy Soul Food — How to Prepare It," a discussion by Charelene Williams of Chalo's Restaurant. Cabanne Library. 6 p.m.
- 28 "The Two Worlds of Angelita" (1983), film about problems facing Puerto Rican family who move to America. Subtitles. Art Museum Auditorium. 5:30 and 8 p.m. \$2.



Members of the Jose Limon Dance Company perform to the music of J.S. Bach in "Sonata," Under the artistic direction of Carla Maxwell, the company performs at Washington University's Edison Theatre Friday and Saturday, Feb. 10-11.

Two Dance Programs at Edison Theatre

Two dance troupes of national importance will perform at Washington University's Edison Theatre in February. On Friday and Saturday, Feb. 3 and 4, the Seattle-based Bill Evans Dance Company will perform a concert of solos and duets. The following week, on Friday and Saturday, Feb. 10 and 11, Dance St. Louis and Edison Theatre will co-sponsor the Jose Limon Dance Company.

The Bill Evans Dance Company will present eight works, seven of which were choreographed by Evans. The program will feature the classical music of J.S. Bach and Andrzej Panufnik, as well as ragtime scores and other jazz forms.

The Jose Limon Dance Company, under the artistic direction of Murray Louis, will perform three works: "Figura," choreographed by Murray Louis for the Limon dancers; "There is a Time," choreographed by Jose Limon and set to the music of Norman Dello Joio, who was awarded the 1957 Pulitzer Prize for composition of the work; and "Magritte, Magritte," a dance drama inspired by the paintings of Belgian surrealist Rene Magritte.

The Jose Limon Dance Company was formed in 1946 and made its New York City debut in 1947. It exists today as one of the two senior modern dance companies in the United States.

Exercise Class at St. Roch's

Women's exercise classes will begin once again at 8 p.m., Monday, Feb. 20, in St. Roch's Gym, 6030 Waterman, and will continue for 12 Monday evenings. The cost for the series of one-hour lessons conducted by Dorothy Reed is \$9 payable the first evening. For further information call Barbara Schmidt, 863-4512.

City Pools Can Be Leased

The St. Louis Division of Recreation has swimming pools available for rental time. Your organization is invited to reserve time at our pools. Just \$15 per hour will accommodate a group of thirty or less. Larger groups can be scheduled.

It should be noted that physical fitness experts recognize swimming as the safest, most effective way of overall muscle toning. Very few exercises work to tone as many muscles effectively at one time as swimming. While swimming, the muscles receive just the right amount of resistance from the water. Many times while performing other forms of exercises, muscles are frequently pulled and strained. Swimming is also thought to be the best form of therapy for people suffering from arthritis or recovering from other injuries.

For information on scheduling time at any of the four pools in operation: Wohl Pool, 1515 N. Kingshighway, 12th & Park Pool, 1410 S. Tucker, Cherokee Pool, 3200 S. Jefferson, West End Pool, 5250 Enright, please call John Anderson at 535-0100.

Art Show at Steinberg

Washington University's Gallery of Art in Steinberg Hall will offer a unique look at mid-nineteenth century American landscape painters in "The Beautiful, The Sublime, and The Picturesque: British Influences on American Landscape Painting," Feb. 18 to April 8, 1984.

Nearly one-third of the 62-piece exhibition is from the Washington University art and rare book collections, including Frederic E. Church's "Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta," 1883. The balance is from museums across the country, including the Yale Center for British Art, the Indianapolis Museum of Art, and the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art in Kansas City, Mo.

The landscape show is the first major art exhibition made possible through a large endowment from alumnus Tobias Lewin (Class of 1932). The gift, the Hortense Lewin Art Fund, is named in honor of Lewin's wife, who attended Washington University in the 1930s. The gift enables the Gallery to finance a major exhibition, lecture and publication annually, according to Gerald D. Bolas, Gallery director.

Earl A. Powell III, director of the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, will deliver the introductory lecture at 8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 17, in Steinberg Auditorium adjacent to the Gallery. A reception will follow.

The exhibition, which is free and open to the public, is co-curated by Joseph D. Ketner II, curator and registrar, and Michael J. Tammenga, curatorial assistant. They also co-authored a 76-page illustrated catalog for the show.

Gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays and 1 to 5 p.m. weekends. For more information, call 889-5490.

Personal Service Featured in New Pershing Arcade Shops

Personal service.

It's not easy to come by in this era of help-yourself discount department stores. But just because personal service is a scarce commodity, don't let anybody tell you that it's still not available. Three new merchants in the DeBaliviere Place neighborhood on Pershing, New Harmony, Gregory's Flowers and The Movie Shop not only offer personal service, they have lots of free parking in a secure, well-patrolled area, too.

New Harmony at 5585 Pershing (361-5816), offers unique, attractive gifts at affordable prices. Antiques, novelty greeting cards and stationary, tasteful one-of-a-kind gifts, unusual antiques, and an ever-expanding selection of records and tapes (sometimes available at discounted specials) can be found here. Something which really makes visiting New Harmony worth the trip, though, is the gracious attention Ann Cox Farrell and her son Skip Hagey extend to shoppers.

Hagey, who was formerly in the record business in Atlanta, Georgia, brings his extensive musical knowledge to this family-owned and operated business. Many of the gifts offered by the shop are musically oriented, points out Mrs. Farrell.

New Harmony is more than just a run-of-the-mill gift shop, explains Mrs. Farrell, because it represents a microcosm of her family's life. While she pursues her interest in antiques at the shop, her son is working hard at building the shop's record and tape selections. If it's an unusual or discontinued recording you're after, check with Hagey, who will do his utmost to accommodate your request, he says.

To share their love of music and arts with the neighborhood, New Harmony invites children from age three on up to participate in their Children's Hour program every Saturday from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. The program, which is offered free of charge, will feature stories and music from classical and contemporary artists. Special entertainment will also be offered for the whole family at the shop at 1 p.m. In the recent past, Dan Gaynor, jazz pianist, has been featured.

If creative, innovative and affordable floral designs are what you need, Gregory's Flowers at 5585 Pershing (361-0170), is worthy of a visit while you're shopping. Proprietor/floral designer Gregory Fowler and his colleague Ron Deen create unusual custom-designed floral arrangements from either silk flowers or the real McCoy. The shop's special arrangements can be placed in one of Gregory's distinctive baskets or vases, but Deen explains that even a few fresh-cut flowers from the shop can add some pizzazz to your surroundings. At Gregory's also, personal service is a speciality.

Another new welcome addition to the DeBaliviere Place neighborhood is The Movie Shop at 5585 Pershing (367-3215). Proprietor Michael Juwer also offers his customers personal service and an extensive line of videotapes for home viewing that range from children's to adult programming.

The Movie Shop is open seven days a week and sells blank tapes as well as video cassette recorders (VCRs). Juwer hopes in the near future to also sell viewing monitors.

If a customer purchases a VCR from The Movie Shop, Juwer stresses that it's not the same as if it was bought from a department store. Instead of the traditional 90-day guarantee that comes with such products, Juwer has made extended VCR maintenance agreements available to his customers.

Customers can call one day ahead and have their selected tapes ready and waiting, Juwer says. The Movie Shop also prides itself on having the most current titles available to their clients. In February, for example, Juwer says films seen earlier at the cinema like "Tootsie" and "Mr. Mom" will

be available on videotape. If it's an unusual, hard-to-come-by item that has anything to do with video, Juwer says he will make every effort to fill requests.

Juwer, the newest of the three new neighborhood merchants, says his primary goal in business is to make sure his customers are happy. Over 700 titles are now

available through the Movie Shop, and that number will be expanding with Juwer's February inventory. In his words, Juwer stresses that people should know his operation is first class.

In addition to the three newcomers that we welcome and urge you to patronize, *The Paper* encourages the neighborhood to continue their good support of Pershing Hairlines, Koch Drug, the Pasta House, Parente's, Charlie's, Pacific Seafood Express and Frontenac Cleaners.

Frozen Pop-Singers?

A group billing themselves as "Neighborhood Carolers" promised to sing in various blocks of DeGiverville, Westminster and Pershing on Dec. 20 last. The coldest day in 99 years forced most of the organizers to the point of prudence: Carol Not, but Drink the Post-Carol Cocoa!

Except for the 5800 block of Pershing! There, a group of young folk implored to go "Christmas-Trick-or-Treat," and sallied forth. Their hapless adult sponsors had verified that each had hat, gloves, coat, trousers and shoes (and if you think this last is superfluous, you don't know kids!). The group adopted as their artistic standard the motto: IF YOU CAN'T SING GOOD, SING LOUD! They did — and gathered "about" a case and one-half of canned goods (*How do you divide a can of tuna into a case of veggies?*) and "almost"

Vicissitudes

By Lisa Horner

Well, the nine months of waiting finally came to an exciting conclusion on Dec. 3. At 11:33 a.m. our first child, Elizabeth Anne Horner, was born weighing six pounds, nine ounces. A truly remarkable experience! Little did we know at the time that only hours earlier on Dec. 2, Alicia Rose Webb had entered the world. Alicia weighed six pounds, eleven ounces, and is the second child of Richard and Arlene Webb, 6100 Pershing. They have an older daughter, Erica.

This must be the season for babies. Suzanne Kropp, 6100 Westminster, became a very young first-time grandmother on Jan. 12, when her daughter, Mary Kay Mauer, gave birth to a baby boy, Bruce Russell Mauer. Mary Kay and her husband Bruce live in St. Louis.

Anne and Jim McCarthy, 6100 Kingsbury, also became grandparents, but for the fourth time. Their daughter, Gloria, and her husband Lee Virtel of Lamont, Illinois, are now the proud parents of James Leo Virtel.

Neighbors at 6100 Waterman were sorry to see the Krippners leave. Ken and Pat along with their seven children moved to Webster Groves in November. They sold their home to Arthur and Betty Buell.

\$10 (*It might have been more, but HE tripped and dropped some change!*) for our neighbors in need. They then retired to drink almost a gallon of cider, gulp eight dozen cookies, gloat over the loot — and donate it to the Breitmeyer Ministry at Grace United Methodist Church.

All in all, a good enough time was had by all that the Neighborhood Carolers are threatening to do it again next year. Because? They proved that the cold of hand and foot can be warm of heart, and those that sing *Loud* can also do *Good!*

Arthur is the Development Director of ECHO, the Emergency Children's Home for battered children. ECHO is part of the National Benevolent Association affiliated with the Christian Church. The Buells met their neighbors quickly due to the antics of their cat who ran away on the day of the move. Neighbors on Waterman helped out by looking everywhere for the missing feline. The children at St. Roch's even tried to help by rounding up all available strays. Fortunately, a young couple on Skinker found the cat and happened to see the Buell's ad in the paper so the story has a happy ending. In addition to their cat, the Buell's have two married children, Michael and Felicia.

We also welcome to the neighborhood Nancy and Richard Rice. The Rices recently moved into the 6100 block of Westminster. The move is a homecoming for Nancy, formerly Nancy Dwyer, who lived at 6147 Westminster with her parents and five brothers and sisters from 1959 to 1970. The Dwyer children attended St. Roch's and many long-time residents may remember them. The Rices have two sons, Robert, 3, and John, 18 months. Nancy is an administrative assistant to Mayor Schoemehl and Richard is a driver/salesman for Pennzoil. We also welcome Lora and Curtis Doyle to 6100 Westminster.

The neighborhood wishes a speedy recovery to Bill Thomas, 6100 McPherson. Bill recently was forced to undergo open heart surgery.

Congratulations to Ed Martin, teacher at St. Roch's, who was married recently. The happy couple spent their honeymoon in San Francisco.

Look for Sam Green's new Farmer's Insurance office in the same building as the Community Council. Sam and Lu Green live at 6100 Westminster.

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Macho Menus: Butter Biscuits

by Cal Stuart

It is mid-morning on a Low Sunday. (Low Sunday is a term used by Episcopalians to designate those two Sundays a year when you really are not expected to attend Church. Those Sundays are the first Sunday after Christmas and the first after Easter.) At any rate, it is a Low Sunday and each of your three children has an overnight guest. A decision has to be made. What do you feed six hungry children that is such a treat, that your children's guests will go back to their home, not only full, but impressed to a point that they will wear their own parents down as they state repeatedly what a wonderful parent I am and why can't they do as well. When such an occasion arises, it is obviously time for father to make BUTTER BISCUITS.

Because the biscuits do take some time and six kids can get on my nerves, I start with an important first step, the preparation of a Bloody Mary. I have a formula that has taken twenty years to perfect. Done correctly, it is guaranteed to satisfy and as a side benefit, clean out your ears. Please allow me to share my recipe.

Place before you the following:

1. Tomato Juice
2. Lemon — a slice
3. Salt
4. Pepper
5. Worcestershire Sauce
6. Tobasco Sauce

Mix the above together, using amounts equal to your taste. To this add pinches of the following, also in amounts determined by your taste.

1. Curry Powder
 2. Dill Weed
 3. Celery Seed
 4. Sage
 5. Thyme
 6. Horseradish
- Stir well together, add Vodka and pour into a glass containing ice cubes. Two of these will establish you for the preparation of the butter biscuits.
- For the Butter Biscuits, you will require the following:

1. 3 cups flour
2. ¾ teaspoon baking soda
3. ½ teaspoon baking powder
4. 1 teaspoon salt
5. Buttermilk or milk laced with vinegar (about four tablespoons to four cups of sweet milk)

Mix all the dry ingredients together and begin to add the buttermilk slowly. Stir the mixture until it is of a consistency that will stick to your spoon almost like paste.

Melt butter in a fry pan. Use enough so that there is about ¼ inch of melted butter in the pan. When butter begins to bubble, using two spoons, add a portion of the mixture to the butter. Each portion should be the size of a regular drop biscuit.

Fry each side for about four minutes, adding more butter as needed. This recipe should make about 34 biscuits. Serve with bacon and a selection of your favorite jams and jellies.

They are delicious and for a while will make you look like a hero.

Insurance Is Not a Dirty Word

by Paul Kurtz and Sam Green

Q: I received a note in my automobile policy renewal notice that certain liabilities are no longer covered by my policy. Can you explain this for me?

A: Without looking at the notice, I suspect that you are referring to liabilities that involve family members.

The court system, for many years, felt that it was important to preserve the family unit. Interfamily and interspousal immunity laws were formulated by various jurisdictions to preserve this idea. These laws disallowed lawsuits brought between a husband and a wife; and between children and their parents for negligence. Along with many moral issues, the courts felt that these suits would tend to break up the family unit.

Certain jurisdictions have now abolished these laws and are allowing these lawsuits much to the chagrin of the insurance industry. Many controversies arise in allowing these types of liabilities, but the industry seems united in its attempt to disallow coverage for these cases in their policy language.

It never was the intent of the policy to cover this type of loss and that necessitates sending all policyholders notices that advise that these cases will not be covered. Missouri, we believe, still has these laws, but the future will probably bring changes so the industry wants to inform everyone of that possibility.

Q: What is the major purpose of renter's insurance and why do I need it?

A: The general purpose of insurance is to transfer a known cost (premium) for an unknown cost (loss). This holds true for auto, life, and every other type of insurance.

Many people who rent believe their landlords are adequately covered and need not purchase any protection. This false sense of security can lead to disaster. You have to remember that to have an insurable interest in property that you must suffer financially should the property be lost or destroyed. Since the landlord does not own your personal belongings, he can not insure them; therefore, it is up to the individual to protect the property.

Renter's insurance not only provides coverage for your personal property, but also liability and additional living expense coverages. This range of coverage includes named peril coverage for contents, comprehensive personal liability coverage, and also will help pay extra living expenses incurred for setting up temporary quarters should the present living space become uninhabitable due to fire or another peril.

Many people find out about renter's insurance only by suffering a loss and discovering that they must bear the burden of replacing property or defending lawsuits themselves.

One way for you to gauge if you need coverage is to pretend that a fire has swept through your apartment. Could you afford to replace items necessary to carry on without help?



Photo by King Schoenfeld

(Editor's note: The author of the February Macho Menu column is Cal Stuart. Cal and his wife, Gee, have lived in the neighborhood since 1966. From 1971 to 1978, Cal was the executive director of the Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Council. He remains closely involved with the neighborhood through McPherson Management, which he and Gee own.)

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Aldermanic Update: Operation SafeStreet

by Dan McGuire

Mayor Vincent C. Schoemehl Jr. has unveiled a new, multi-faceted campaign to combat crime in city neighborhoods. The program, called Operation SafeStreet, is patterned after the successful community involvement model of the Operation Brightside program. Operation SafeStreet will be headed by our neighbor Mrs. Lu Green, who is being loaned to the City by the Ralston Purina Company while remaining on the Ralston Purina payroll.

In 1981, a survey conducted by the St. Louis Ambassadors showed that 23 percent of the respondents felt that crime was a major concern, while 29 percent thought poor housing was a big problem, and 37 percent said that St. Louis was dirty. In response to these concerns, Mayor Schoemehl created Operation Impact, a six-pronged program to fight neighborhood blight, and Operation Brightside, the popular city cleanup program. The third and newest program is Operation SafeStreet, which will be tested in Skinker-DeBaliviere and eight other target areas before being expanded to other neighborhoods.

"Operation SafeStreet is designed to assist citizens in regaining control of their neighborhoods by placing barriers in the criminal's way, thus discouraging criminal activity in their area. The success of Operation SafeStreet rests upon citizen involvement," Schoemehl said. "I want the residents to be in control of their own neighborhoods, rather than allowing criminals to dictate when residents can leave their homes or walk safely in their neighborhoods," he commented.

The first phase of Operation SafeStreet will focus on nine neighborhoods scattered throughout the city. The nine areas are: Shaw, Fountain Park, The Ville, Fox Park, Tiffany, LaSalle Park, Skinker-DeBaliviere, Cathedral Square, and the O'Fallon Park neighborhoods. Every six months a new group of target areas will be offered the SafeStreet programs. City-wide implementation in all residential neighborhoods is expected by January 1989.

The programs will enlist the cooperation of the Police Department, the Circuit Attorney's Office, the Fire Department, and City Officials to insure that each area's plan is effective and has the necessary support. Representatives from each of these groups will serve on the fourteen-person Advisory Board of Directors. The Directors include Mayor Vincent C. Schoemehl Jr., Comptroller Paul M. Berra, President of the Board of Alderman Thomas E. Zych, Circuit Attorney George Peach, Chief of Police John F. Berner, and Fire Chief Thomas E. Long. The other Board members are Urban League President William E. Douthit, our neighbor Suzanne Hart, executive director of the Commission on Crime and Law Enforcement, School Superintendent Dr. Jerome B. Jones, Director of Public Safety Thomas R. Nash, Community Development Agency Director Deborah J. Patterson, Streets Director James M. Shea, William L. Slaten, president of the St. Louis Federation of Block Units, and Sergeant Kirwan Young of the St. Louis Police Department Community Relations program.

Operation SafeStreet will consist of the following five programs:

NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

This program will be sponsored in cooperation with the St. Louis Police Department. Area residents will be trained to observe and report suspicious activities to the police. The SafeStreet staff will work with neighborhood leaders to organize their areas on a block by block basis. The staff will also work with police to insure proper training for interested residents, as well as to provide the initial contact between the local police district personnel and the neighborhood watch area residents.

PROJECT HOME SECURITY

Block Captains will survey their blocks to determine all residents interested in having their homes secured. All homes of senior citizens over 62 and retired will be secured free of charge, others will be charged \$150 for the total package. An installment payment plan is available. Further, if you only need some of the work done, you may order only that work and be charged the itemized amounts listed below. Please remember the crews will only be on your block *one day*, so if you have not yet been contacted by your Block Captain, please call the SafeStreet office at 622-3444 or the Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Council at 862-5122, if you want to take advantage of this low-cost program.

Operation SafeStreet will install:

- Double cylinder dead bolt locks on front and back doors (\$30 each),
- First floor windows will be pinned to allow windows to be opened 5 inches for ventilation, but will stop would-be intruders from opening them further (\$10),
- A peep hole in solid front doors (\$8),
- Basement doors will be barred with C-clamps and wooden braces to stop unauthorized basement entry (\$24),
- All basement windows will be covered with burglar prevention bars (\$60),
- A smoke detector (\$15),
- Electric porchlight cell (\$5), and
- All homes secured by Operation SafeStreet will be provided with window stickers.

PROJECT QUIET STREET

Project Quiet Street is designed to increase the neighborhood's sense of community and security as well as to help residents identify strangers and suspicious occurrences. This program will remove non-resident through traffic from residential streets and force this traffic to Skinker or DeBaliviere by limiting vehicular access to the neighborhood. All traffic pattern modifications have been reviewed and approved by the Fire Chief and Chief of Police. Attractive planters with evergreens and flowers will be used to modify traffic patterns within the neighborhood. All changes will be reviewed after a six-month period, and if deemed unsuccessful, the planters may be removed.

Planned modifications for Skinker-DeBaliviere are:

- Remove the traffic diverter at Rosedale and Washington and re-close Rosedale by installing planters south of the Delmar alley. The 60XX block of Washington will continue to be one-way eastbound so residents would enter from Skinker via Westminster and Rosedale.
- Close Des Peres and Laurel as through streets by erecting barricades of planters south of the Delmar alley. School buses on Des Peres will be able to use the temporary "turn-around" at the site of the old Sunoco Station.

If this modification proves successful, a cul-de-sac will be built at Des Peres and the alley.

Although not part of the SafeStreet program, the long awaited permanent cul-de-sac at Nina Place and McPherson will be constructed this spring. This will allow two-way traffic on Nina Place from Waterman to the cul-de-sac at McPherson, and one-way traffic east on 59XX Kingsbury, south on 59XX Nina Place, and west on 59XX McPherson.

PROJECT PORCHLIGHT

Every home in the target areas will be asked to turn on their porchlights from dusk to dawn every night. The benefits of Project Porchlight are:

- 1) The street receives additional lighting, which is a deterrent to criminal activity,
 - 2) Potential criminals are alerted that the neighborhood is organized to watch for suspicious activities, and
 - 3) The visual confirmation of participation in the program will instill in the neighbors a renewed sense of security and safety.
- Every person on the block is asked to turn on their porchlight from dusk to dawn,
 - The cost is only 5 cents per day to the homeowner for one 60-watt bulb.

OPERATION SAFESTREET NEWSLETTER

An Operation SafeStreet newsletter will be mailed to every resident in the target areas. For the first six months, each new target area will receive a newsletter monthly, then quarterly as the programs are established. The newsletter will:

- Feature articles about other available crime programs,
- Feature neighborhood residents who aided police, and
- Provide information on new programs for community use.

In addition to the above programs, Operation SafeStreet will establish and maintain a communications network with crime prevention groups and victim assistance organizations.



Photo by King Schoenfeld

Pixies Learn Scouting

by Joyce Criglar

Pixie Troop 842, a newly formed Girl Scout troop, meets on Tuesday afternoons at Grace United Methodist Church. Our Pixies are first grade girls (girls six and seven) and our program is designed to introduce the girls to the Worlds of Girl Scouting. There are five areas (worlds) in the Scouting program. The troop must complete at least one project in each of these areas in order for the girls to earn a Brownie B Patch. The patch is one of the first recognitions a Girl Scout can earn.

So far, we have entered the world of: *Well Being* (by) *Baking Breakfast Cookies and talking about nutrition.*

Out of Doors *Taking an exercise hike, making bird feeders.*

Today & Tomorrow *Visiting a Computer Store.*

Arts *Working on a gift for our families for Valentine's Day.*

People *Making Christmas wreaths for Senior Citizens.*

Please call the Troop Leaders (Joyce Criglar 367-3439 or Mary Vanicelli 727-0839), if you are interested in Pixies.

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The Neighborhood River

by Ray Breun

Living in the flood plain of a river which cannot be seen but yet is powerful enough to require a flood clause in a homeowner's insurance policy demands some explanation. It's difficult enough trying to tell your child there is a river under the street, but how can it be strong enough to cause flood damage? Nonetheless there is, under Des Peres Street, a river known as the River Des Peres where it can be seen! But let's take it one wave at a time.

It was 1699 or 1700 when the small troupe of Jesuit missionaries are supposed to have attempted to start a mission site at the mouth of a small river entering the Mississippi. Its name was St. Francis Xavier River des Peres - St. Francis Xavier mission on the River of the Fathers. As far as anyone can tell, this was the first attempt at a permanent settlement on the western shore of the Mississippi, the Father of Waters. The last official record of the missionary settlement was the baptism of Peter Bizaillon on April 13, 1703. There is some thought that the mission may have been on an island off the mouth of the River Des Peres, but in any case it closed down in 1703 and the Jesuits moved their operations south and east to a prairie called St. Joseph's after the church built in what was to become the original town of Kaskaskia in Illinois country. Eventually a stone church was built which later collapsed and a large wooden church was built in its stead. The original site of this missionary band at the mouth of the River Des Peres was totally destroyed by the river and the climate. Around 1815, a Roman coin was found at the mouth of the river and given to Territorial Governor William Clark, and this is often referred to as confirmation of the mission settlement.

Nearly three hundred years ago, the river of our neighborhood was named by Jesuit missionaries. We cannot see it, of course, since it is in a concrete box under Des Peres Street. It wasn't always that way, however. When Hiram Leffingwell was proposing his notion of Forest Park in 1874, he boasted of the gentle woodland stream which traversed the proposed grounds of the park for a total river distance of four miles. The park was created two years later, and the arboreal splendor of the River Des Peres was commonly noted among the graces of this the second largest urban park of its day, exceeded only by Fairmount Park in Philadelphia. But 1896 changed all that. The beautiful woodland stream became a "wild tempestuous river" when it flooded causing great damage to the woodland scenery of Forest Park. From that time to its completion for the Louisiana Purchase Exposition, work was carried on every year to encase the river in concrete. Finally, during the years after the Fair and before World War I, the river was totally controlled. Where it once meandered for four miles in the park, it now only covers a distance of one mile, exiting the park in a pair of concrete tubes under Highway 40 which can be seen just east of where Macklind Avenue goes over the River Des Peres south of Manchester Road. Except for a couple of short above-ground appearances in the middle of Forest Park, the entire length of the River Des Peres is in concrete from the time it goes underground just across Kingsland from Metcalfe Park to its emergence east of Macklind south of Manchester. Once it emerges from underground, it flows in growing volume west and south, along McCausland and Germania, to finally enter the Mississippi by National Lead's plant. It has become essentially a large storm sewer.

The Skinker-DeBaliviere area along the River Des Peres was originally a flood plain and swamp through which the river made its circuitous way. The old Hodiament house on Maple Avenue, nearly a mile north of Delmar, was built

with a view of the river to its south within walking distance. That was, of course, 1826 and the land was totally devoted to agricultural pursuits. When urban developments came, the swamp was filled in, streets platted, and houses built. When the river flooded in 1896, all these developments were threatened along with the preferred ecology of Forest Park, and the river "had to be controlled."

The presence of the River Des Peres is still apparent in more than just insurance premiums. The planning for a light rail transit spur to Clayton from the Wabash Station has to be above ground because it cannot be underground in the same location with a river! In addition to this, the several buildings still standing along Des Peres Street have problems related to shifting foundations influenced by the passing river waters adjacent to their stone work. But for most people in the neighborhood, all the river means is an additional insurance expense because we live on a flood plain.



Photo by King Schoenfeld

Art Santen, 6100 McPherson, recently celebrated his 50th birthday by adding the 11,000th bottle opener to his massive collection. His most recent addition, a Falstaff can opener, is not even in the catalogs yet. Gathered over the past eight years at a rate of more than one thousand new openers each year, the openers in Art's collection come from all over the world, with a large number from St. Louis breweries. The openers are mounted by categories, with the best reserved for the Santen's dining room mantle. Art is shown here among the thousands lining his basement walls.

Shoo Away the Winter Blues at the Kingsbury Kiosk

For children by Arlene Sandler

Some books can make a smile last from Christmas till early spring.

Grown-ups have to read you picture books because the words are usually too hard if you're 3, 4, or 5 years old. They'll love every minute of it if the books are Graham Oakley's *Church Mice* books. You may not understand everything, but you will definitely giggle as the mice open a restaurant, tie a burglar's bootlaces together, lead a protest march for rodent rights, and engage in other comical, very British adventures with their friend, Sampson, the church cat.

William Steig's books will make you all laugh, too. In *The Amazing Bone*, Pearl, the pig, is rescued from the fox's oven by a magic talking bone. Read the book to find out what the words, "yibbam sibibble" mean to a fox.

Never overlook the poetry shelf. No discussion of funny books would be complete without Shel Silverstein. In *Where the Sidewalk Ends*, he gives instructions for bathing an armadillo and describes what happens when spaghetti, rather than confetti, is thrown at a party. Read about the boy who has a "crying and spying young sister for sale," and about the notebook salad and big slice of soup you'd be eating "if the world was crazy."

Laughable Limericks is an old collection of limericks on many subjects by many different authors. Reading them may teach you new words, inspire you to write some of your own limericks, and most of all, will cheer you up. Remember:

"No matter how grouchy you're feeling,
You'll find the smile more or less healing.
It grows in a wreath
All around the front teeth —
Thus preserving the face from congealing."

For adults by Mary Ann Shickman

Shakespeare Girl, by Mollie Hardwick, St. Martin's Press, 1983.

This story will warm the cockles of your heart on these cold winter nights. Set in a small hamlet near Stratford-on-Avon, the principle character, Miranda, lives with strict, unloving grandparents. Forbidden to

see plays, she sneaks off with a friend to see Shakespeare's *Henry IV, Part I* and falls in love with the character, Hotspur. There is an ugly scene when she arrives home in which Miranda is told that her parents were actors; therefore, they were rejected by the grandparents. The First World War grows close and a flu epidemic is taking many lives and among them are Miranda's grandparents. She receives a legacy from them as well as the family Bible which indicates she might be a descendent of Shakespeare. She hires a genealogist who concludes that she is, indeed, a descendent of Shakespeare. Newspapermen swarm around her in London, where she stays with friends, but one man in particular becomes her lover. Their love affair has many ups and downs and over a period of years the story comes to a satisfying conclusion. Among Hardwick's other books are *The Dutchess of Duke Street* and *Upstairs, Downstairs*.

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In Your Ear

by Tom Hoerr

I didn't use to consider myself a superstitious person. Not really. A ghost was something on my television set (particularly Channel 2), goblin meant an impolite way of eating, and a warlock represented the monopoly that the Pentagon has on military conflict. Bishop Berkley aside, if you can't touch it, it ain't real. At least, that's how I used to feel.

Lately I've begun reconsidering my position on things. In fact, confidentially, I'm convinced that *we are not alone*. I'm not referring to "things that go bump in the night" now; I know what those are and hopefully the crackdown on drunk driving will ameliorate that situation! No, the things I'm talking about are pervasive in a much more subtle insidious kind of way. Let's be candid, the two of us: When's the last time you placed your keys somewhere, only to have them missing when you looked for them? Remember when you recorded the check you wrote in your checkbook, only to find the writing not there later? How many times have you relaxed in bed, enjoying a bit of night silence, only to hear the drone of a radio or television set still turned on elsewhere in the house? That's right, you know exactly what I mean.

I don't know the origin of these creatures, but I do have some insight as to their types. Like politicians there are two major types of phantoms, the "movers & shakers" and the "all talk, but no action." The "movers & shakers" (M&S for short) are the culprits who move and shake objects (clever name, huh?). The M&S not only erase entries from checkbooks, they erase messages from refrigerator doors and juxtapose digits in phone messages that I take for my wife. Most heinous of all, they separate and realign socks placed in my dresser drawer. More than once I've worn one blue and one brown sock due to the machinations of the M&S in my house. (Typically when it is pointed out to me that, indeed, I am wearing one blue and one brown sock, I simply reply, "That's all right, I have another pair just like that at home.") At least one local bank is flourishing, due in no small part to the series of safe deposit keys (at \$7 each) that I've purchased to replace those continually taken by the M&S.

It's easy to see why the M&S are so active. They get their energy from the varied food they take: leftovers which vanish from the closed refrigerator (I wish I had a dollar for each time I find an empty pie tin pan left on my refrigerator shelf!); windshield wiper fluid which must be some kind of elixir as it has always disappeared when I need it; cigars which dematerialize, wrappers and all, into thin air. Toothpaste caps are surely some kind of real delicacy for no sooner is the tube defrocked when the cap leaves the premises (no doubt to join the last roll of toilet paper which is always somewhere else when it's needed).

The only real guaranteed protection against the M&S is to follow that old adage, "the best defense is a good offense." As a result, if a nuclear holocaust does occur, while I may be short of luxuries such as food, water, and medicine, my basement will be well-stocked with safe deposit keys, toothpaste tubes, and toilet paper. I thought my stockpile had the M&S beaten (apparently they must be allergic to mold and, hence, unable to venture into my basement) until the spring rains and floods came. The keys and toothpaste tubes held up reasonably well under water, but the toilet paper was another story. Don't let anyone tell you that the plastic toilet-paper wrappers are waterproof.

The "all talk, but no action" phantoms (commonly called ATNA's), while less obvious in their mischief, are no less frustrating. Rather than taking or moving objects, the ATNA's harass through sound. Heard

a "drip drip drip" lately but been unable to find a leaky faucet? What about that funny sound your car makes *until* you take it to the mechanic? How about the times you've recorded songs, only to play them back and hear a cacaphony of static? The ATNA'S strike again.

While irritants, these kinds of audio aggravations are tolerable (after all, chances are *something* needs fixing on your car anyway). The ATNA's real evil lies in their ability to distort messages and block normal communication. How many times have you given someone a time for a meeting, only to have that person show up at the wrong time and swear that *you* gave the incorrect time? Remember the twenty-six times you told you-know-who to take out the trash, but that person "didn't hear" you? In my household the ATNA's disintegrate the sound waves when I tell my wife about a meeting I have scheduled; she, too, "never heard" me. (I'm not sure, but I think this is something like the Doppler effect.) I'm in a real dilemma because now that I know this, I play it smart by telling my wife something and then being double-safe and writing it on the refrigerator door

memo pad. That foils the ATNA's, but unfortunately the M&S take over and the message, like the safe deposit key, disappears.

Simply sharing my plight with you, dear reader, doesn't do any good and neither does ignoring the spirits that occupy my house. The problem is serious enough that I've done some research. Apparently this kind of possession is not atypical in older city houses. (Interestingly enough, forms of possession vary by area; while M&S and ATNA's are prevalent in the city, West County homes are plagued by pink and green polyesters that drive gaudy cars and watch "Family Feud," but that's another story.) Anyway, there is an ancient chant which can rid a household of its demons. One need simply repeat the litany twice while either smoking a cigar or eating a Hostess cupcake and — poooof — the spirits will vanish and possession will end. As a service to you, I now offer the chant for your use against whatever demons may inhabit your home. Now let me see, I had the chant written on a piece of paper that I sat on this table last night . . .

assess and assist code enforcement, to work with the Neighborhood Liaison Officer from City Hall and with the Building Division, to encourage beautification efforts, including Operation Brightside, to coordinate housing assistance programs for the area, to award the Home Improvement Award on a regular basis.

- *Social Welfare Committee* — purpose is to initiate, coordinate, and assist various social welfare programs with special emphasis on those in need.
- *Business Committee* — purpose is to research, recommend, and assist in improving the business climate, to bring new businesses into the area and to develop means to assist residents in finding employment in the area.
- *Safety Committee* — purpose is to assist with organizing crime prevention programs, including Operation SafeStreet.
- *Program Committee* — to develop a calendar of events, to promote cultural, educational and entertaining activities.

Interested residents may call or write Anne FitzGibbons, Executive Director, at the SDCC office, 6008 Kingsbury, or call 862-5122.



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