

The *TIMES* of... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

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MAY 1990

FREE

The oldest neighborhood newspaper in St. Louis

Promethea: A Burlesque Pageant Debuts May 25

Times Sponsors Party On May 26

The Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Council presents its annual theatrical Friday, May 25 and Saturday, May 26 at New City School, 5209 Waterman Ave. Curtain is up at 8:00 p.m. both nights. This year's offering is entitled Promethea: A Burlesque Pageant. The title didn't ring a bell, so we sought out Tom Clear, the director. We found the boyish writer-director at his cheerfully cluttered Delmar digs.

Times: So, what is Promethea?

I think it's fair to say you've never seen anything like it. It's a musical version of the theft-of-fire myth, set in prehistoric

Skinker-DeBaliviere. There's song, comedy, ballet, a raffle, spectacular effects. It's a romp.

Times: Who's involved?

Neighborhood stars like Mary Bea and Ed Stout, Kathleen Williams, Dan Shea, Rose and Meg Flynn, Ann and Elizabeth Judy, Peter Schmit, Connie Christeson, Jeremy Schoenfeld, Laura Horner and Jennifer Fleming. Andy Cross from the Rep has agreed to pitch in on the sets, with help from Dee and Gary Hayes, and Mary Borgman designed the poster.

Times: Will there be juggling?

Of course! Al Stanger, who was such a

hit in last year's show, will be there. We're trying to persuade him to do his famous "flaming tennis balls" routine, if the fire code allows.

Times: Anything else?

I'll take that as a delicate hint to mention that The Times will host a fabulous party after the May 26th performance, also at New City School. Proceeds from a cash bar and a portion of the ticket price that evening will benefit the Times.

Times: And, if anyone cares, just who are you?

A humble theatrical toiler. I wrote and directed last year's smash, Too Many

Nights in a Barroom. And then I wrote the score for Some of My Best Friends Are...which ran forever at The Other Fox. Times: Never heard of it.

No one respectable has. But it was socko, believe me.

Ticket information for Promethea is available from the SDCC Office, 862-5122. SDCC is holding the line on ticket prices: tickets for Friday evening's performance, sans party, are \$5 adult, \$3 student/child under 12; tickets for Saturday evening's performance and party are a mere \$7.99 adult, \$4 student/child.

A+ Teaching Scholarship Awarded To Roell Schmidt



From left, A+ Teaching Scholarship winners Lisa Wilson and Roell Schmidt, New City School Board President Jim McLeod, and Headmaster Tom Hoerr.

Roell Schmidt, 61xx McPherson, was awarded a \$1,000 scholarship at New City School's A+ Teaching Scholarship dinner on April 18, 1990. Roell attends the Academy of the Visitation and is planning on using her scholarship at either Earlham College in Richmond, Indiana or Washington University. Lisa Wilson of Rosati-Kain High School was granted the second place award.

New City School, an independent elementary school in the Central West

End, established the \$1,000 and \$500 Teaching Scholarships to be awarded to a high school senior who is enrolled in a St. Louis area high school, and who is interested in pursuing a career in education.

It is projected that one-half of the teachers in the country will leave the profession by 1993; this will result in a 37% shortage of teachers (Education Week, May 14, 1986). In recognition of the importance of an excellent education, the urgent need for fine teachers, and to honor the ex-

Walk Of Fame To Honor Inductees

The St. Louis Walk of Fame is pleased to announce the 10 people who will be honored in the Walk during a special ceremony on Sunday afternoon, May 20, 1990 at 12:30. The inductions will take place at the corner of 6500 Delmar and Westgate.

All of the inductees are great St. Louisans who have contributed immensely to our cultural heritage. They are:

Josephine Baker (entertainment)
William Burroughs (literature)
Kate Chopin (literature)
Miles Davis (music)
Betty Grable (acting)
Ulysses S. Grant (military/U.S. President)
Howard Nemerov (poetry)
Marlin Perkins (zoology)
Leonard Slatkin (music)
Willie Mae Ford Smith (music)

The St. Louis Walk of Fame consists of sets of brass stars and bronze plaques to honor individuals who either were born in the St. Louis area or spent their formative or creative years here and who made a major contribution to our cultural heritage. Each star contains the name of an honoree; and accompanying rectangular plaque contains a brief summary of the honoree's accomplishments. The stars and plaques are permanently set into the sidewalks of the University City Loop, centrally located in the St. Louis area.

Previous inductees are:

Chuck Berry (music)
Katherine Dunham (dance)
James B. Eads (architecture/engineering)
T.S. Eliot (poetry)
Scott Joplin (music)
Charles A. Lindbergh (aviation)
Stan Musial (sports)
Vincent Price (acting)
Joseph Pulitzer (journalism)
Tennessee Williams (playwright)

For more information, please contact: Joe Edwards, Chairman.

P.S. The Original St. Louis River Critters ragtime band will perform beginning at noon. The concert and induction ceremony are free, and the public is definitely invited!

cellent teachers at New City School, the A+ Teaching Scholarship was established. The Scholarship will serve to encourage young people to consider a career in teaching and to draw attention to the impending teacher shortage.

The New City A+ Teaching Scholarship Dinner has received generous support from A. G. Edwards & Sons, Inc., PET, Inc., St. Louis Bread Company, and the Mercantile Library.

New City School, founded in 1969, serves children age 3 years through the sixth grade. The school prides itself on its combination of challenging academics, a nurturing environment, and a diverse student body. In 1985, New City School was honored to receive the Instructor Magazine's A+ Award given in recognition of exemplary academic programs, outstanding teachers, strong community support, and concern for individual students.

Home Repairs



Many neighbors are fixing up in response to the recent neighborhood-wide housing inspections. Past issues of *The Times* have had articles about the Historic District permit requirements and financing options. Extra copies are available by calling 862-5122.

Photo by King Schoenfeld

The TIMES of... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

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Katie Kurtz
King Schoenfeld

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The Times of Skinker-DeBaliviere is published by the West End Publishing Co., a not-for-profit, community organization. Members of the Board of Directors are:

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Guidelines for Submitting Copy

The Times welcomes unsolicited articles and letters. Because of the small size and volunteer nature of the writing staff, the quality and range of *The Times* 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. Signature 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 20th 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 6010 Kingsbury, 63112. Deadline: 20th of the month.

Thank You...

The Times gratefully acknowledges the generous gifts from the following people:

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Tyronc and Gabrielle Wilson

Summer Day Camp At Breitmayer

The Breitmayer Community Ministry has announced the dates of their annual summer day camp, beginning June 11 and closing August 3. The day camp hours are 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Monday through Friday. There are extended hours available at an additional fee to parents who request the extended hours.

Planned activities include dance, music, arts and crafts, drama, storytelling and exercise. There are field trips planned to go bowling, to attend the Circus Flora, a Cardinal baseball game, the Magic House and many other places of interest.

Hot breakfast and lunch will be served. Registration is open to ages three through thirteen. Contact Linda Emerson at 863-8900 for more information.

COCA Opens The Gallery

The Center of Contemporary Arts (COCA) is pleased to announce the opening of a new gallery called The Gallery at COCA, located in and administered by the Center of Contemporary Arts, 524 Trinity in University City. The first exhibit is entitled *The Past Redefined* and is composed of selected works from a prominent St. Louis collection. The following artists are represented: May Stevens, Sylvia Sleight, Robert H. Colescott, Ivel Wehmüller, Josef Levi, Martin Schwartz, Robert Amft and Equipo Cronica.

Most of the work has not been seen previously in St. Louis.

The Gallery at COCA will open with a reception to celebrate the new gallery on May 4, 1990 from 6:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m. The exhibit will be available for viewing until June 30, 1990. Gallery hours are: Tues.-Sat. 12: noon-5:00 p.m.

For further information please call 725-6555.



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May Calendar

Continuing

- Ragtime To Rock 'N Roll: St. Louis African American Music*—exhibit will be held at the History Museum through 1990. Exhibit focuses on rock 'n roll music and musicians.
- Our City—St. Louis Urban Views: Paintings, prints and drawings from the Missouri Historical Society's collection depict St. Louis from the 1800's to present.* History Museum. Thru July.
- "Dance Of Light"—blown glass by James M. McKelvey will be exhibited at Comonere Gallery, 6509 Delmar, through May 30.
- Remember Me As I Was Then: Portraits Of St. Louis Women*—Oil paintings and pastels from the 19th to mid-20 centuries. History Museum. Through May 31.
- Images Of Aviation In St. Louis*—exhibit of 40 photographs from St. Louis aviation history. Through 1990. History Museum.

May

- 4 COCA will host a reception to celebrate the opening of The Gallery at COCA, 524 Trinity from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. See related article. The exhibit "Designs in Sculptural Fiber" by Sherri Smith will be on view at Craft Alliance, 6640 Delmar, through May 29th. Opening reception is May 4th from 6-8 p.m.
- "Exploring The Abstract"—features work of 4 different artists, and recent works by Ron Thomas; Elliot Smith Gallery through June 3. 360 N. Skinker.
- 6 The Bel Canto Chorus of St. Louis presents their Spring Concert at Westminster Presbyterian Church, 5300 Delmar, 3:00 p.m. Tickets available at the door or call 781-1764 (evenings). \$6.
- Storytelling Festival*—Leslie Handley weaves tales about the cattle kingdom, gold miners, and heroes of the frontier at the History Museum. 2:00 p.m. Free.
- 7 **Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council meeting.** 7:30 p.m., 6010 Kingsbury.
- 10 World premier of the multi-media arts performance *Sanctuary*. Art Museum, 8:00 p.m. Also May 12 and May 13 at 4:00 p.m.
- 11 "Casonova's Henriette," an HRRC production, tells one of the greatest love stories of all time. May 11-12; COCA, 524 Trinity; 8 p.m. For ticket information call 569-8006.
- 12 **Kiosk Karnival**—12:30 p.m.; sponsored by the Kiosk Library. There will be a guided tour of a firetruck as well as many other activities. Cake and punch will be served.
- Hugh Glass and the Grizzly Bear*—Saturday program for children ages 6 to 13. A craft activity follows the program, History Museum, 10:30 a.m. Free.
- James "Yank" Rachell concert to be held at the History Museum at 8:00 p.m. See related article. For reservation information call 361-9265. \$6 per person.
- 15 Theater Factory St. Louis opens its eighth summer season with the production "A, My Name is Alice"; Freeman Theater at Mary Institute, 101 N. Warson Rd. Call 832-1919 for more information.
- 17 28th Ward Regular Democrats Ward meeting. New City School, 5209 Waterman at Lake. 7:00 p.m.
- 18 *A Ring of Stones: Tales from the Celtic Tradition* will be performed by Janet Keifer and Lydia Ruffin at COCA, 524 Trinity at 8 p.m. Call 725-6555 for more information. \$6.

- 19 RiverFaces parade competition and festival—St. Louis Riverfront. See related article.
- "Rip Van Winkle"—Muny/Student Theater Project performs musical comedy at History Museum, 10:30 a.m. Adults \$3 ; Children \$1. For advance tickets, call the Muny at 531-1301.
- 20 Robert McFerrin, Sr. In Concert—Internationally acclaimed baritone Robert McFerrin, Sr., sings arias, spirituals and art songs. History Museum, 2:00 p.m. Free.
- St. Louis Walk of Fame**—at corner of 6500 Delmar and Westgate; 12:30 p.m.; see related article.
- 23 Better Family Life presents *Black Dance U.S.A*—A celebration in movement; at COCA; 524 Trinity, U. City. For information call Anthea Henderson at 367-3440. Through May 28.
- 25 **Promethea: A Burlesque Pageant**, presented by the Players of Skinker-DeBaliviere. 8:00 p.m., New City School, 5209 Waterman.
- 26 **Promethea: A Burlesque Pageant**, presented by the Players of Skinker-DeBaliviere. 8:00 p.m., New City School, 5209 Waterman. Party follows, sponsored by The Times.
- Frontier Days—The St. Louis Connection, will be held at the History Museum in Forest Park. See related article.
- 31 *Pacific Asians Who Became St. Louisans*—photograph exhibit of national groups immigration to St. Louis; 5-7 p.m.; History Museum Opening party and exhibit held in cooperation with KMOV TV.

June

- 4 **Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council meeting.** 7:30 p.m., 6010 Kingsbury.
- 12 **Parkview Agent's meeting.** 7:30 p.m. Call 361-0880 for location.

World Premiere Of Sanctuary



In Motion Dance Company presents the world premier of *Sanctuary*, a multi-media arts performance, on May 10 and 12 at 8 p.m. and May 13 at 4 p.m. at the St. Louis Art Museum auditorium.

When Missouri artist Douglass Freed pondered the ultimate abstraction of painting, his thoughts ran to foreign rhythms and dream-like movement between pillars of hot and cold color—a painting in motion.

Freed's vision, a blend of abstract painting, atonal music, and modern dance, is being brought to the stage in *Sanctuary*. The multi-media arts performance will

have its world premier at the St. Louis Art Museum Theater at 8 p.m., May 10 and May 12 and at 4 p.m. on May 13.

Sanctuary is a collaboration between the In Motion Dance Company of St. Louis, Freed, a nationally renowned painter living in Sedalia, West German composer Wolfgang Thierfeldt, and St. Louis writer Thomas C. Danisi.

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Vicissitudes

By Terry Vanicelli

While I was walking down Washington, trying to figure out how I was gonna meet the deadline for this month's column, I chanced to spy one of *The Time's* former directors. It was certainly a nice surprise to bump into Yvonne Hunter, formerly of 62XX Washington. You may recall that her husband Jerry was nominated to be the top labor relations attorney for the Department of Labor just before we shut down for the summer last year. While we were out of print, Jerry's nomination was confirmed, the Hunters moved, and our paper lost a director. Jerry is lucky; despite the fact that he is employed by the gummint, he is actually doing something worthwhile (as opposed to being an IRS auditor or on official of whatever outfit enforces the Paperwork Reduction Act). Double blessed, actually, because Jerry loves labor law and is now thoroughly steeped in it. They even like D.C.!

The most travelled person in the neighborhood this year has to be Bob Horner III of 62XX Westminster. As you read this, he is touring a whole slew of Navy bases in the Pacific with the Pat Holt singers. So he gets to visit Hawaii, Japan, the Phillipines, etc. Lest you think that this trip is an unmitigated bed of roses, I should point out that one of the stops on the group's itinerary is Johnston Island. Except for the even more obscure Palmyra Island, Johnston Island is literally a thousand miles from nowhere. Japan occupied the place during the Hitler War to exploit the island's phosphate deposits. Its only other natural resource is gooney birds. I'm rather astounded that we have a facility there.

Mary Schmit of 61XX McPherson is also doing a bit of travel these days as a fledgling lobbyist. She was in Jefferson City during the week of April 15, helping represent the National Association of Trade and Technical Schools. In May, she tackles Washington D.C., for the same organization.

Pete and Mary Schmit's French guest student, Benoit Lerdeau, has been earning some kudos himself. He exhibited at the Monsanto Science Fair competition at Queeny Park a computer program he co-wrote to calculate and graph higher functions from degrees zero to degree five. I would appreciate anyone who would care to let me know what I just said. More importantly, this program won a prize in a district-wide programming contest sponsored by St. Louis Public Schools.

Monte Bordeaux is the only new arrival to the neighborhood we have news of. Monte, who works for Newspace, lives on 61XX Westminster.

Last year we mentioned DeWitt Campbell joining the St. Louis Cardinals as a bat boy. We are pleased to report that young Mr. Campbell has earned the right to return to the club in the same capacity this year.

George Johannes (60XX Westminster), has formed his own architectural consulting firm.

Ottie's Corner:

The Good News this month is the lack of trouble we had during Thirteen Carnival. The streets have never been safer than they were for this event. We did have a purse reported as stolen, but it showed up a little later with all of the lady's cash still in it. So be careful, it appears that honest people are beginning to infiltrate the area.

The Bad News is the passing—you have no idea how hard it is for me to write this—of the Parkview Pursuit Chevette. After the odometer recorded the same distance that light travels in a second (can you believe this car actually racked up 186,000 miles?), the engine very quietly expired and spewed oil all over the street. Whelan Security was planning to retire the PPC shortly and donate it to the Cancer Society. But it died of heart failure first. What will replace it? Right now we're not sure, but I'm sure glad you can't get Yugos anymore!

Starting April 30, I get a partner. A young gentleman from Crossroads School named Pat Nolan is interested in pursuing a career in Law Enforcement and will be doing a summer internship with me. I'm looking forward very much to working with this young man. We should have some great stories to tell you next month.

We are tentatively planning to have a Bicycle Safety Course at Four Corners sometime in June (preferably the early part). Details were not complete at press-time, so watch this space next month.

Did you help celebrate Earth Day? I did, by putting in some Plant Guards. Plant Guards? Yep, in this case, thorn bushes underneath the windows. Also cactus on the window ledge. And these are only the obvious type of Plant Guards. Next month's column will be a special on an incredible variety of plants that can help protect your home from intruders.

Holy Land Trip Seeks Neighborhood Travelers



The Holy Land trip will include visiting the Garden of Gethsemane overlooking the Gate Beautiful. Photo by B. DiLorenzo.

Neighborhood residents and churches are being invited to join an ecumenical study and travel group that is preparing for trips to the Holy Land. The trips, 10 to 21 days long, are being planned for January, 1991, leaving St. Louis on the 11th and 20th of that month. Sponsored by a Methodist group, Educational Opportunities, Inc., the trips are also endorsed by Archbishop John L. May of Saint Louis. Bernadette DiLorenzo, 61xx Kingsbury, is helping the registration effort.

The 10-day program includes field trips to Jericho, the Dead Sea, Tiberias, Capernaum, the Sea of Galilee, the Mount of Beatitudes, Cana, Nazareth, Caesarea, Bethlehem and Jerusalem. There will be archaeology lectures given at the sites of events from the Old and New Testaments,

together with other Biblically-centered studies.

DiLorenzo says, "The goal is to get a bus filled with neighborhood people to make the trip. They would make the field trips in Israel and travel together as a group throughout the 10 days. Studying and traveling together can't help but bring the churches of various denominations closer together.

Tickets are \$1400, including airfare, if purchased early. Spring registrations, as well as assuring a lower price, also allows for the formation of a group which would study and prepare together for the trip. Call Rocco and Bernadette DiLorenzo, 721-0549, about an informational meeting at their home during the month of May.

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SDCC Honors Farmer's 5th

by Catherine Forslund

The Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council (SDCC) Board reviewed brick building painting questions, Walgreens, and Fina Station status at its April meeting. Additionally, a milestone anniversary was recognized and general business was conducted.

Present at the April Board meeting were: Randy Bailey, Margaret Campbell, Frank and Flossie Driscoll, Nancy Farmer, Mary Fleener, Georgi Fox, Katie Kurtz, Bob Mahon, Shirley Polk, Arline Webb and Jack Wright.

The March minutes and budget were both approved as read.

Kurtz, Historic District Review Committee Chair, reported on the results of a meeting held with Farmer and Heritage and Urban Design Commission (HUDC) Director Kate Shea and assistant Jan Cameron. Following the February neighborhood meeting, a number of questions had been raised, particularly about painting brick buildings and obtaining permits. As previously discussed, any brick building needs a permit prior to painting. HUDC staff will grant the permit without a Board review. The colors allowed will be any natural masonry color which includes brick reds, buff and tan tones and grey shades. Because Skinker DeBaliviere is a city historic district, nearly all exterior work requires a permit. The building division must submit it for HUDC staff review to determine visibility from the street and applicability of minimum exterior standards. When applying for permits, Kurtz advises that photos of the building, particularly the areas to be worked on, be included in the permit application. Inspectors and HUDC staff can do their jobs faster and better when they can see what currently exists. Finally, Kurtz proposed that SDCC purchase a camera for neighbors' use in easily obtaining those necessary and useful photos.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Walgreens has appealed the zoning board's denial of their use permit for the DeBaliviere Center site. The final hearing on the appeal and request for a variance will be on April 4. Farmer will head a neighborhood contingent to the hearing in an attempt to block granting of the variance. Bi-State Development Agency is still interested in the property as part of their light-rail development at the DeBaliviere-Forest Park Parkway intersection, but no offers have been made to property owner Gary Mestman.

The Board authorized Farmer to make arrangements with the Crusade Against Crime organization to purchase up to four "Drug-Free School Zone" signs per school in the area (Crossroads, Hamilton and St. Roch's). These signs will inform the community that a new Missouri statute provides a double penalty for selling drugs within 1000 feet of a school building.

The new manager of the Fina station on

Skinker, Milt Woods, was shocked to hear of the past problems the neighborhood has had with the facility. He agreed to include a number of restrictions in the site's use permit such as hours being limited to 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. Sunday-Thursday, 11:00 p.m. Friday and Saturday; no alcoholic beverage or cigarette rolling paper sales; no pay phone outside the building; rest room facilities being available only to patrons; at least 3 trash receptacles and daily premises and adjoining property litter collection. The property owner will be required to conform existing signage to HUDC plans and no additional signs will be allowed. Also, landscaping plans will be required and approved by HUDC.

The Delmar and Des Peres rezoning originally proposed in the neighborhood historic district ordinance is finally near passage in the Board of Aldermen. The extension of the Rosedale Square redevelopment area was passed by the Alderman in mid-March.

The AIA charette tentatively scheduled for October 13, 1990 will be called "Delmar Link-Edges and Connections" referring to the future metro-link light rail and that Delmar should not be an isolated boundary area.

City building inspections have been completed and the building division is working hard to grant extensions of time, when reasonable, and help work with neighbors to solve problems. The "Financing Home Repairs" workshop should be of assistance to neighbors. SDCC is acting as coordinator of orders for address plates.

Blitz day is May 5 and suggestions for block captains and special projects are welcome.

The community theater production of "Promethea—A Burlesque Pageant" still needs children and adults for chorus and other roles.

Area leaders will meet informally with Community Development Agency (CDA) director Tony Williams on April 5. The planning committee priority map will be discussed in addition to delayed CDA funding of the McPherson Redevelopment and Nina Place projects.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

HOUSING

Farmer reported that they are still working on acquiring a 60xx Washington property and architectural rehabilitation plans for Rosedale Square buildings.

PARKVIEW

The Agents will hold their annual meeting on May 21 at Grace Methodist Church to elect new agents and conduct other business. The resurfacing of Pershing will happen in April along with curb and sidewalk repairs.

At the close of the meeting the board recognized Farmer for 5 years of excellent community service, and expressed wishes for more years to come.

History Museum Presents Frontier Days



The History Museum in Forest Park will create a rendezvous for mountain men and women of all ages during Frontier Days, Saturday, May 26 and Sunday, May 27 on the grounds of the Jefferson Memorial Building. The tradition of Daniel Boone, pictured above, will be revived with demonstrations, slide-illustrated talks and craft session. The engraving dating from 1862 is from the Missouri Historical Society's collections.

The 19th century mystique of St. Louis, the frontier city and threshold of the west, will be recreated during the History Museum's celebration of Frontier Days Saturday, May 26 and Sunday, May 27. The Jefferson Memorial grounds in Forest Park will be the site of a mini-rendezvous, complete with demonstrations, slide-illustrated talks and craft sessions open to outdoorsmen (and women) of all ages. The free programs are scheduled between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. on Saturday and from noon to 4 p.m. on Sunday. For more information call the education office at 361-9265.

On hand will be re-enactors, famous for their weekend rendezvous. In costume

they will demonstrate the use of weapons and show fur pelts and equipment similar to those used by the legendary mountain men.

Patrick McCarthy, Ph.D., the nation's foremost researcher on the mountain man subculture, will come from the University of Northern Colorado to chair the two-day event. He will present slide-illustrated lectures on customs of the mountain man and show the influences seen in life today.

Frontier Days will include hands-on activities for children. Frank Foley, master quilter, will lead the sewing of quilt squares. Other crafts will include making dolls from corn shucks and wool carding.

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Firefighters Frequent The Kiosk



Firefighters from Firehouse #30, photographed by Mary Ann Shickman in front of the St. Louis Public Library Kiosk.

by Mary Ann Shickman

Have you looked lately for Firehouse #30 on DeBaliviere? It's a narrow two-story building snuggled between the new Bi-State Garage on Delmar and a Baptist Church.

Once a week the firemen of Firehouse #30 go out on the firetruck to familiarize themselves with the neighborhood. During these trips the A Team, led by Captain Macarthy (a golf enthusiast), sometimes stop at the St. Louis Public Library Kiosk. Members of the A Team include David Crawford, who is also a leader; David Hill, who has six children; Mark Neinhans, who plays softball; and Paul Maletich, who is single and the youngest.

Among these men there is a wide range of literary taste. Books on home repair and gardening, hunting and the outdoors, science fiction from L. Ron Hubbard to Frank Herbert, biographies, and the classics including the works of Thomas Hardy, Edgar Allan Poe and Henry James represent their choices. They are adept at using the CD-Room and request many books from other locations and also boost circulation by checking out books for their children.

Occasionally while browsing in the Kiosk, a fire alarm has sounded on the

radio and they fly out the door. Before they have turned the corner they are in complete fire gear and the siren is screaming. In this neighborhood alone they have responded to 1,111 calls this year.

In their work firefighters frequently sustain minor injuries on the job. In the poorer areas of St. Louis they see many fatalities, particularly among children and the elderly. In those areas civilians heat with kerosene, electric heaters or burn wood in fireplaces that are not safe. All the men are trained in C.P.R. Some are paramedics and are able to resuscitate those hurt as well as try to prevent injury. Last year at a fire in an apartment building on Clara near Delmar, firemen David Hill and Edward Meyer were able to save a rather large woman by getting the ladder to her window before she jumped from it which would have resulted in severe injuries.

Do you ever wonder where these firemen are when they are not out fighting fires? (Besides the Kiosk, that is!) The St. Louis Fire Department operates on a three-shift system. During the 24-hour period a shift is on duty, no one is allowed to leave. Meals are taken together and planned so that if the alarm sounds they can quickly leave and resume eating later.

Firemen perform assigned tasks such as polishing the brass, cleaning the firehouse, and policing the grounds to prepare for Sunday inspections by the battalion chief. Daily, firemen also have time to study to learn new methods of fire fighting and to keep up with policy changes. From 7:30-10:30 they have free time for reading, watching T.V., playing cards or telephone conversation with a spouse. Each firefighter is on a three hour watch during the night which provides total vigilance.

It has been a pleasure working with these men over the past seven years. Even before the Kiosk existed, some of them answered the call when the old Des Peres Branch Library burned. We salute them for their contribution to the neighborhood and enjoy their high-spirited visits to the Kiosk.

To meet the firefighters of Firehouse #30 in person, come to the Kiosk Carnival on May 12th at 12:30 and receive a guided tour of the firetruck. There will be other activities as well as cake and punch.

Summer Fun Is Coming!

By Kate Anderson

Attention all you neighborhood hoofers! On Friday evening, June 1, the West End Arts Council will sponsor "Summer Fun," a dance fundraiser featuring live rock and roll music by Jules Blattner and the Teen Tone Revival. The event will be held at the Center of Contemporary Arts (COCA), 524 Trinity, from 7:30-midnight. United States Open Swing Champions Sherry Lawson and Dale Roughly will perform as well as other regional champions, and a beginners imperial swing lesson will be given to the adventurous from 7:45-8:15.

Chances at priceless prizes will also be sold at a mere \$2.00 each. One lucky family will win a season of summer fun at the Skinker-DeBaliviere swimming pools. Another couple will win a romantic evening on the town. Tickets to this fabulous fundraiser are \$15.00 apiece and include complimentary beer, sangria and snacks. Please call Nancy Farmer at 862-5122 to reserve tickets or for further information. See you there!

Classifieds

Wanted: French Tutor to teach beginner who is age 12. 1 hour twice weekly during summer, \$7.50 per hour. Call 863-2320 evenings.

Volunteers

Needed For MDA

Volunteers are needed to work with children and young adults between the ages of 6-21, at the Muscular Dystrophy Association's Jerry Lewis Summer Camp. The camp will be held the week of June 24th-30th at Babler State Park in Chesterfield, MO. For more information contact 644-2828.

Fin, Fur, Feather

by Christine Smith

How do you train a cat? You don't—the cat will train you in the niceties of being a cat-housekeeper.

Cats are fastidious. They take readily to litter boxes. However, if these are not regularly cleaned, the cat will make truly appalling messes on your \$1,200 couch to remind you.

Cats like schedules. You may get up at 6:30 Monday to Friday, stumble toward cereal and juice, and feed kitty. You may think that allows you to sleep in on Saturday or Sunday. Oh, No...Kitty is there prancing—dancing on your recumbent carcass at 6:30 A.M.! (So you groggily get the Kitty-Bits.)

But also—you drive up home, a multitude of motors buzzing by; you can't tell

one from the other. But they know: "Hello, Dad! Glad you're here. We came to meet you!" "Supper?"

Self serving opportunists...you think. Until you settle to read, and one comes to knead your lap and make a warm book-rest.

And then you learn what love is—a really cold night, with spouse and plethora of cats, all piled on one bed together, some kneading, some snoring, all hugging.

And you learn: You don't train cats
You don't train husbands or wives.

Cats are like family. They see you for what you are: providers of food, warmth, cleanliness.

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HATS OFF TO OUR GRADUATES

Yank Rachell In Rare Performance At History Museum



Yank Rachell, above, right, called the Godfather of Blues, returns to St. Louis from Indianapolis to sing and play his mandolin at the History Museum in the Jefferson Memorial Building in Forest Park on Saturday, May 12, beginning at 8 p.m. Pictured with Rachell is Henry Townsend who has promised a special guest appearance.

"...If I don't know what blues is now, nobody does! Coming from anyone else, the words might carry a sense of arrogance. From Yank Rachell it's simply a statement of fact," says Jill Warren in the *Indianapolis Star*.

Yank Rachell, called the Godfather of Blues, returns to St. Louis from Indianapolis to sing and play his mandolin at the History Museum in the Jefferson Memorial Building in Forest Park on Saturday, May 12, beginning at 8 p.m. Legendary bluesman Henry Townsend, who has played and recorded with Rachell for 50 years, has promised a special guest appearance.

The concert, held in conjunction with the museum's exhibition, "Ragtime to Rock 'n Roll: St. Louis African American Music," will be presented by the Missouri Historical Society and the St. Louis Blues Society. Tickets are \$6 per person and may be reserved in advance by calling 361-9265.

A career that spans over 60 years has taken Yank Rachell and his blues mandolin to Europe, Canada and most parts of the

United States, where he has played in major clubs and festivals, on radio and on television. He is featured in a documentary film, "Yank Rachell-Tennessee Tornado," produced by PBS by Mike Atwood in 1989.

Born in Brownsville, Tenn., Rachell developed his skills by playing the rough house parties and fish fries common to the area. He was "discovered" in Memphis in 1929 and recorded for the first time on the Victor label. Numerous recordings have followed. His two most recent releases find him expanding his scope into a more contemporary blues fusion. His song credits include "Gravel Road Woman," "Hobo Blues," "Tappin That Thing," and "She Caught the Katy," performed by Taj Mahal in the movie "The Blues Brothers."

Chris Sautter, writing for *Living Blues* magazine, called Rachell "an animated performer, enthusiastically shouting and clowning with his audiences." An innovator of the moment, he marks his appearances by unrestrained vocals and raw, hard-driving mandolin.

RiverFaces Announces Parade Competition

This year, for the first time, schools, community groups, and individual children and adults are invited to participate in the ongoing RiverFaces tradition in a special way. Registrations are currently being accepted for the new RiverFaces parade competition as part of the 7th annual RiverFaces parade and festival on Saturday, May 19th. It all takes place on the St. Louis riverfront.

RiverFaces believes that a parade is moving art, the street is stage, and the participants players. Everyone in the St. Louis regional community, children and adults, schools and community groups are invited to celebrate who we are as a community by creating and presenting original, hand-made masks, costumes, and large puppets with music and movement. Generous cash prizes will be awarded based on the entrant's interpretation and portrayal of the

parade theme, "Dance of Life."

The parade and competition will be part of RiverFaces '90: Dance of Life—a festival of masks, music, and magic. Families, the young and the young at heart, neighbors and friends will gather at the St. Louis riverfront to proudly unveil their creations in a regal procession led by giant parade puppets towering over 10 feet tall!

The RiverFaces program is made possible through a grant from the Regional Arts Commission, Missouri Arts Council, and the Arts & Education Council of Greater St. Louis. Additional funding is provided by the Riverfront Development Committee, Downtown St. Louis, Laclede's Landing, and St. Louis Centre.

To register for the competition and to receive more information, call RiverFaces at 436-0664.

How Bank Accounts Affect SSI Eligibility

Bank accounts can affect Supplemental Security Income (SSI) eligibility. And that's an area that sometimes confuses people who are receiving or applying for SSI.

To be eligible for SSI, a person can't own resources worth more than \$2,000 (\$3,000 for a couple). Bank accounts are considered resources. So are other assets like stocks and bonds and real estate other than the home a person lives in.

What's so confusing about that? Well, Social Security considers a bank account yours if your name is on it as owner or co-owner and there are no legal restrictions that keep you from taking money out and using it for your own benefit. This is true even if you don't use the account or don't consider the account yours. That means it's important that bank accounts are properly titled to reflect ownership and

access.

Let's say Mary Jones applies for SSI. Her daughter Jane has a \$3,000 savings account. Jane listed Mary as a joint owner—primarily so Mary would have access to the money in case something happened to Jane.

Although Mary doesn't consider the account to be hers, Social Security does. And she could be found ineligible for SSI because she is over the \$2,000 resource limit. But if the account is titled to restrict Mary's access, the account would not be considered Mary's and would not affect Mary's eligibility.

The best idea is to check with Social Security about how to set up accounts involving SSI recipients. They can give you specific instructions so you can avoid jeopardizing someone's SSI eligibility. Call 1-800-234-5772 for more details.

When was the last time you checked your Social Security record?

You can get a free statement of your earnings. Check with your local Social Security office for details.

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In Your Ear

by Tom Hoerr

I've always had a short attention span. Even when I was a little kid, I had trouble focusing on something for What do you think of those Cardinals? If anybody can do it, good ol' Whitey can. There's no doubt in my mind that he's the best manager in baseball because Have you tried the new Indian Restaurant on Kingshighway, one block south of Chippewa? It's great, but be careful what you answer when they ask you how hot you like your food.

As I said, I've always had a short attention span. As a kid, I was always starting the second and third and fourth project before I finished the first. Some things don't change: as an adult, I'm always starting the second and third and fourth project before I finish the first. I never turned my homework in on time in school, and my articles are published in this August newspaper only through the patience and extended deadlines of a series of editors.

Some people find a hobby that they stay with for life. Over time they become more and more proficient and knowledgeable until, in some cases, their avocation becomes their vocation. I envy those people. I'm thinking of the artists, writers, and athletes who have a recreational passion that they stay with for life. They obviously don't have an attention span problem (ASP) like I do.

In the last decade or so, I've had a number of hobbies and interests. With my ASP, though, I bounce from interest to interest, much like a teenager changes allegiance to rock groups.

At one time in my life I've been passionate about softball, basketball, racquetball, running, and even the dreaded Nordic Track; I've also discarded each one. I've collected clocks, cigarette lighters, chess sets, bizarre lamps, old radios, junk mail, wild ties, and books about Winston Churchill. While I still have my collections and periodically add to each of them, most of my collections, like their owner, are relatively inactive. By the way, I'm still into clocks, especially old electric statue clocks, if you have one in your basement!

A couple of years ago the first wife and I took a clock repair course. I had already accumulated quite a few clocks and, no surprise, most had the correct time only once each day. It occurred to me that a clock course would be a good way to learn more about clocks and become a better hobbyist. The class was beneficial and I learned one important thing. What I learned is that I should never try to repair a clock. My attention-span was so fleeting that I couldn't pay attention long enough to learn what I should be doing.

The final night of the clock class was an exam of sorts. We were given a clock, and had to take it apart and put it back together within 30 minutes. There were eight of us in the class, and the good news is that at the end of the 30 minutes all eight of us had successfully disassembled and reassembled our clocks. The bad news is that I was the only one who had some pieces left over. Even the first wife, the one who considers a toasted bagel to be a warm meal, got her clock to work. That ended my interest in repairing clocks. I had already lost interest in warm meals.

Chess used to be a passion of mine, even though I was never very good. In fact, I

kind of consider myself a chess unit of measurement: if you're not too good, I can probably beat you. If you're good, you can definitely beat me. It's as simple as that. Back in the 70's, when the Earth was clean and we weren't worried about cholesterol, I used to play chess through the mail by postcard. "Postal Chess" it was called, and I'd play 15 opponents at once. I liked playing chess and liked getting mail, so it was a perfect combo! I think I lost to 12 or 13 of the opponents though. It got so bad that on Saturdays the mailman would hand me the mail and say, "Why in the world did you move your rook there? That was a stupid move." At least I never met any of the people who trounced me. I'm sure I'd have done better if I would have used the time between sending and receiving a postcard to study the board and plan my next move. Somehow I could never manage to sit still long enough to do that.

I no longer play chess through the mail. Technology has come to chess. I have a portable chess computer, "Kasparov." It can be set for any of 17 levels of difficulty, so I'm told. I only think that this is true because I've not been able to beat level #3, so I really don't know whether the higher levels are there or not. I could get better, I'm sure, just by reading a chess book or two, but my ASP prevents me from spending the time that I'd need to improve my game. It used to aggravate me that I was getting beat by a chess computer whose memory was the size of a pea, but then I figured, hey, it can't eat pasta or chocolate chip cookies, so what do I care?

A few weeks ago I enrolled in a clay class at Craft Alliance, "Basic Wheel Throwing." For me, it's VERY basic. I've been to two classes so far, and other than the first time when I turned on the electric wheel and it threw my hunk of clay across the room, it's been fun. The lady who was hit by the piece of clay wasn't even too upset although two weeks later she still has a small bruise on her arm. Since I don't view myself as an artist or even as one who is particularly talented in this area, it doesn't bother me that other people have already produced these great looking bowls and I'm still trying to keep the clay from flying off the wheel. Heck, I can always buy a plastic bowl. There are six more classes, but I already feel myself losing interest.

Cable television is designed for someone with an ASP. The quality of the programming is two notches below warm spit, but there's more of it, so it's great! I can sit with my remote unit and BLIP watch some woeful baseball game and BLIP see the Cable Shopping Network Channel and BLIP catch an original Leave It To Beaver and BLIP watch Robin Smith read the news (does anyone else think her hair makes her look like Marge Simpson of the T.V. Simpsons?) and BLIP watch roller derby BLIP cable news BLIP a commercial for hair spray BLIP Rambo IX BLIP The Weather Channel BLIP back to Ward and June Cleaver again BLIP an old black and white cowboy movie BLIP some guy with greasy hair on a beach in Hawaii talking about buying real estate with no money down BLIP authentic footage from WWII BLIP a "Cheers" re-run BLIP BLIP BLIP. Sometimes I scotch-tape the control switch down so that the channels keep flipping over and over, never staying on one station for more than 1 or 2 seconds. It's not nirvana, but it's close.

Even my work environment is designed for someone with severe ASP. On the average day, I don't go more than two or three minutes without an interruption of some sort. The job is anything but boring. And you know me, even if there's not an interruption, I'll create one at the four minute mark.

There's a new book out about ASP. It's called *Paying Attention: Taking Charge of Your Life*, and is by Dr. Dee Leigh. I've gone to Left Bank Books three different times to buy a copy, but each time I wind up finding something else that's more interesting. Somehow I can't stay focused. I'm looking forward to setting the new books I purchased by my bedside; I've often subscribed to the theory of literary osmosis.

The last time I was in the bookstore I purchased a book about Chinese Cooking. It sounds fascinating, and I'm going to get into it in a big way. Honest! I plan to move my clock collection to the kitchen so I can do an updated version of Wok Around The Clock. I'm not buying a teflon wok, so maybe I can stick with this hobby. See, there should have been a better ending to this article, but—you guessed it—I've already lost interest.

History Museum Exhibits Bumbry Gown

A black and red damask gown, worn by internationally renowned opera star Grace Bumbry, is now on exhibit in the History Museum in the Jefferson Memorial Building in Forest Park. Bumbry is featured in the museum's new exhibition "Ragtime to Rock 'n Roll: St. Louis African American Music." A graduate of Sumner High School, she opened the new Bastille Opera in Paris, France, last week and received rave reviews for her featured role as Cassandra in Berlioz's "Troyens."

Bumbry received her early musical training in St. Louis, where she studied privately with Kenneth Billups and sang in the school choir. KMOX radio arranged for her to appear on Arthur Godfrey's Talent Scouts, and she earned a scholarship to study at Boston University.

In 1962 she made her first orchestral appearance with the St. Louis Symphony and her New York debut at Carnegie Hall. After earning acclaim in Londo, Vienna and Milan, she returned to America in 1965 and debuted at the Metropolitan Opera in "Aida." She has made over 100 performances at the Met in ten leading roles.

She wore the gown currently on exhibit on February 28, 1965 in St. Louis. It has a scooped neck, fits the body and flares at the hem to a dramatic train. The exhibition "Ragtime to Rock 'n Roll" also features costumes worn by Ron Townson of the Fifth Dimension and Fontella Bass and a guitar played by Chuck Berry.

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