

The TIMES of.... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

Vol. 23 No.1

April 1992

FREE

The oldest neighborhood newspaper in St. Louis

YAHOO Program Begins in Skinker-DeBaliviere

by Lana Stein

The Young Artists Hands On Opportunities (YAHOO) program is based on activities developed in New Orleans to involve inner city youth in art-related projects. The Regional Arts Commission is helping to fund a trial project now in Skinker-DeBaliviere through the auspices of the West End Arts Council.

Sculptor Bill Christman is in charge of the classes. Six students are participating on an active basis at the present time. These students all attend different schools: Metro, Junior Classical Academy, Incarnate Word, Rosati-Kain, St. Louis University High School, John Burroughs, but all live within three blocks of one another.

Classes currently meet on Monday and Wednesday from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. and there is an optional workshop on Saturday. The classes are held at

Christman's Studio, 6014 Kingsbury.

Christman is very impressed with the students' enthusiasm. For example, all attended on President's Day even though regular school classes were not held.

The students have begun working in pairs on a vertical pylon sculpture that will be three-dimensional and will incorporate both light and time-keeping functions. The students began

with verbal exploration and the random design of letter forms. They also are working on individual projects creating light boxes.

Christman teaches two young males and four females. He tries to give them encouragement and validation and especially credit for the ability to think. The students have ideas; he provides technical skills.

In the future, Christman is planning

on field trips. They can go to a hardware store to look for unusual objects. "When you look at materials, you can find something that will carry your idea further." He also plans to have the students meet with other neighborhood artists.

This trial program will run through May for a total of four months. According to Christman, the focus has been on the present, not the future.



Some of the students participating in the YAHOO Program show off recent works-in-progress. They are, from left, Jon Micheal Vinson, David Gioia, Lucy Griesbach and Mary Wiltenburg.

About the YAHOO Director: Bill Christman

by Lana Stein

Bill Christman has had a studio in the Skinker-DeBaliviere neighborhood since 1981. He is a full time artist. Christman actually was born on Waterman and grew up in this neighborhood. He has

long term ties to the area. Although there are a lot of artists with studios in south St. Louis and downtown, this neighborhood appealed to him because it is a family neighborhood. Christman

walks to work from his present home in University City (he previously lived above the studio), and his children attend St. Roch's.

There always have been about ten artists' studios at Four Corners. There is a comfort knowing the area has a lot of artists. Since artists' work is solitary, however, there is not much daily interaction. The YAHOO program will promote collaboration.

Christman makes the majority of his living from commercial design and sign work. For twelve years, he painted scenery at the Muny. He still does some theatrical work.

He now is trying to be more productive in his own work. That is the creative part; the commercial work feeds his family. However, the commercial signs do influence his own art.

Christman's most famous work perhaps is his series extolling the American corn dog. His "Corn Dog Mysticism" states that corn dogs have great mystical properties and are the most visible contribution to civilization. He is planning a sequel, "The Dark Side of the Corn Dog," that will show how a tool of enlightenment becomes a tool of enslavement.



Bill Christman

A Pat on the Back...

With this issue, *The TIMES of Skinker-DeBaliviere* begins its twenty-third year of publication. Our thanks to the many many staff members, advertisers, and supporters who have helped us since *The Paper* was started in April 1970.

Executive Director To Seek Public Office.



On March 18, Nancy Farmer, Executive Director of Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council, filed to run as a candidate in the Democratic primary for state representative of the 64th district. Farmer will work part time for the council during the campaign in accord with an agreement reached with the Board of Directors.

Letter to the Editor

The TIMES received a copy of this letter written by a young resident of Skinker DeBaliviere to J. Kim Tucci of Pasta House, Inc. She is offering constructive criticism and we are printing it as such.

Dear Mr. Tucci,

My name is Alicia Webb. I'm eight years old and I am in second grade at St. Roch school. I am in the Reading, Writing, and Ravioli Program. At first, I thought the coupons could be used two or three at a time and you could get three of the free meals and give two of them to your relatives. I wanted to take my mom and my sister out to dinner. But when I found out you couldn't do that, I was so mad! You have to use the coupons for only the person whose name is written on the coupon and you don't have much time before they expire. This means I have to go to the Pasta House pretty often if I want to use my coupons at all and that's pretty expensive. When I was in the program with Pizza Hut, I had to read a number of books and then I got certificates and could take more than just one person out to dinner.

I think your program needs to be changed to be more like the Pizza Hut one so I could use my three coupons to take my mom and sister and me out to dinner. I think you're not being fair because most of us read a lot of books and can't take our parents out to dinner like we thought we could. Most of my friends are pretty mad, too.

I like your restaurant and I like reading but I don't like your reading program when nobody told me what it was really about when I started it.

Sincerely yours,

Alicia Webb

I spoke with Mr. Tucci on March 19. He said he had never received this letter. Pasta House is working with 1,300 teachers this semester to encourage students to read. They are rewarding those who read books and prepare reports with a gift certificate for a spaghetti dinner with salad and a beverage. This represents an investment of at least \$26,000 in the program. That is why use of the certificates is limited to the students who earn them, and the rules are spelled out on the coupons.

He understood the concerns of the letter writer, but said that an accompanying adult could have just a beverage or partake of the \$3.45 all-you-can-eat salad bar. Tucci offered to send the Webbs a special gift certificate for the Pasta House because of the unhappiness they had experienced.

Editor

Message to Dog Owners: Part II

St. Louis has an ordinance that requires dog owners to clean up after their pets. Those who fail to adhere to this regulation are subject to a fine. The fine is not more than \$500 or no more than 30 days imprisonment or both. Residents who wish to learn more about the city's "pooper-scooper" requirement or about the laws pertaining to dangerous dogs or leash laws should call the Department of Health or the SDCC at 862-5122.



Two Propositions on the April 7 Ballot

On April 7, voters in St. Louis City and St. Louis County will vote on two ballot measures. Proposition O proposes a four cent property tax increase for nine years to fund various sports facilities in the area. The facilities will be used for the 1995 Olympic Festival to be held in St. Louis and will make our city a contender for the Goodwill Games and other similar events. The facilities, including special swimming pool and tennis courts suited for national competition, will be available for use by the public over 80 percent of the time. The sponsors feel that major competitive events will generate tourist dollars for the St. Louis economy.

Proposition P contains the proposals drafted by the St. Louis City and County Board of Electors. The economic development section proposes a two percent business utility tax to fund various activities to create jobs in the St. Louis area. Activities include increased marketing of the area, capital improvements necessary to ensure development, business incubators to help small businesses get started, and targeted training for businesses that wish to locate here.

The second part of Proposition P deals with a plan to restore Forest Park and maintain it with a six cent property tax addition. Four cents of the tax will be used for capital improvements to the park which are expected to cost at least \$46 million. The remainder is for regular park maintenance. City and county residents would pay the tax and a commission from both city and county, named by the mayor and county executive and confirmed by the board of aldermen and county council, would administer it. If a master plan is not adopted by the commission, council, and board of aldermen within two years, the four cent tax will not be collected.

APRIL CALENDAR

NEIGHBORHOOD EVENTS

April 7 Election Day. Propositions O and P are on the ballot. See related article this page.

Seventh District Police meeting, Area III station, 7:00 p.m.

April 13 SDCC Board Meeting, 6010 Kingsbury, 7:30 p.m.

April 14 Republican caucus. Call 781-1056 for information.

April 16 28th Ward Regular Democrats, John's Towne Hall in the Dorchester, 665 S. Skinker, 7:00 p.m.

May 2 Brightside Blitz

NEARBY EVENTS OF INTEREST

Now-Sept. 13 Art Museum: Wedgwood ceramics, Gallery 329.

April 4 History Museum: Children's Program, 10:30 a.m.

April 4 History Museum: Folk, country, bluegrass music, 8:00 p.m.

April 12 History Museum: Laclede String Quartet, 2:00 p.m.

April 20 Classes for adults and children at Craft Alliance, 6040 Delmar Blvd. Call 725-1177 for details.

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Editor: Lana Stein

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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:

Ray Breun	Katie Kurtz	King Schoenfeld
Tom Hoerr	Venita Lake	Lana Stein
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For complete list of sizes and rates write:

The Times, 6010 Kingsbury, 63112 or call 863-7558.

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 be omitted by request. Calendar listings should be phoned or mailed to 6010 Kingsbury. 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 the data, including times, dates, location and particularly the spelling of names.

Any pictures of illustrations submitted should be black and white.

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

Send all correspondence to 6010 Kingsbury, 63112. Deadline: 15th of the month or call 721-7532.

PLANT DONATIONS NEEDED

The Beautification Committee will be planting at the Four Corners area in several of the permanent planters located there in order to improve an important public area in our neighborhood. We need your help. Neighbors who wish to donate excess plant stock from their yards should call the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council at 862-5122 and leave a message including your address and phone number, and the type of plant you'd like to contribute. We also need mulch and any extra top soil residents have.

Take a look around your yard and see if there might be a few bulbs or perennials you'd just as soon "relocate." Some specific suggestions are:

daylilies
seasonal bulbs-daffodil or iris
liriope (monkey grass)
sedum
hostas
barberry
cotoneaster

Once you've identified what you'd like to donate, call the SDCC office. We will even try to send a volunteer to help with the removal, if necessary. The committee hopes to prepare the containers and plant on Operation Blitz Day, May 2, 1992, so please call in your donation by the end of April. Think of this as a good way to clean up your garden and contribute to the visual improvement of our neighborhood.

Grace Pre-School Celebrates Thirty Years

Grace Pre-School will be celebrating its thirtieth year of serving the community and surrounding neighborhoods. Nearly 750 children have attended the school.

The emphasis at Grace has been on the child's emotional and physical development, as well as cognitive skills. There is structure, of course, in music, art, science, etc. However, the school is also supposed to be fun.

The hours of the school are Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. On Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday the closing hour is extended until 2:00 p.m.

For further information regarding the school, please call 863-1992.


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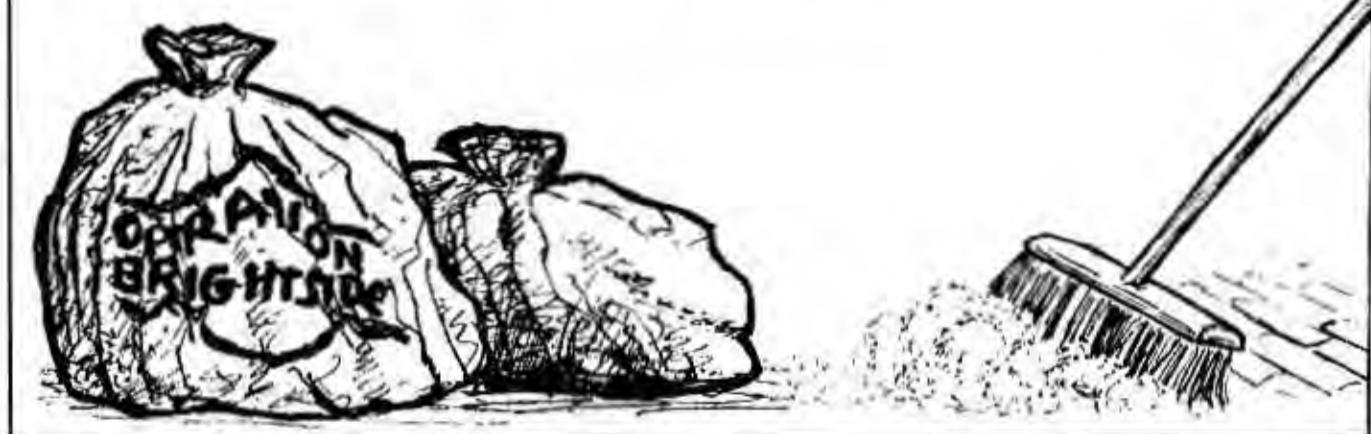
**St. Louis' annual clean-up of streets and alleys.
Help keep our neighborhood beautiful by cleaning up
on Saturday, May 2.**

- Plantings and flowers available for barricades and planters.
- Mulch available at nearby parks.
- Trash bags available.
- Please use yard waste dumpsters for specified purposes.
- Special Saturday trash and bulk waste pick ups.

**Blitz Day headquarters is at
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SKINKER DEBALIVIERE COMMUNITY COUNCIL BOARD MEETING

MARCH 9, 1992 MINUTES

Attending the meeting were: Directors A. Carr, F. Driscole, C. Forslund, R. Johnson, S. Polk, R. Roncal, L. Stein, N. Vatcha, A. Webb, J. Wright, Executive Director N. Farmer, and Assistant E. Grapperhaus.

Guests at the meeting were: R. Beitler, A. Bluiett, D. Burns, F. Driscole, Ald. D. McGuire, D. Tollman, J. Vatcha, ConServ Officer J. Waits, and W. Waksfield.

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m.

Delmar Redevelopment Plan Update J. Vatcha reported on activities of the Commercial District Planning Committee (CDPC). There will be a public meeting concerning the redevelopment plan in the next month or two.

The CDPC is concentrating on improving the appearance of Delmar. This will mean making high standards and restricting some business uses. Both sides of Delmar must be stabilized. The CDPC will prepare its recommendations for the redevelopment for Aldermen D. McGuire and I. Clay to present to the Board of Aldermen. Both of these aldermen have helped with the redevelopment plan.

SDCC has received \$60,000 in grants to use for capital improvements and landscaping on Delmar. The specific uses of these funds have not been decided. Options include: street repaving, banners, match money to help business upgrade their properties, and landscaping.

The CDPC still must work on issues concerning land uses and how to word restrictions on liquor sales.

Prohibited uses as they stand now include: pawn shops, adult bookstores, x-rated movie houses, massage parlors or spas, auto and truck dealers (new or used), auto repair shops, motor fuel pumping stations, car lubrication facilities, storefront churches, pinball and video arcades, pool halls, secondhand junk shops, tattoo parlors, truck or other equipment rentals requiring storage, blood donor facilities, free standing package liquor stores, establishments selling alcoholic beverages by the glass that do not prepare and serve food on the premises, check cashing centers, restaurants with no indoor table service which are strictly drive-through or carry-out, open storage.

There were suggestions that the phrase relating to alcohol sales should read "establishments selling alcoholic beverages by the glass for consumption on the premises that do not (primarily or substantially) prepare and serve food on the premises." The use of percentages was discussed. An explanation of the phrase "free standing" liquor store was requested. It was suggested that blood donor facilities be changed to commercial blood donor facilities. These issues will be dealt with by CDPC and reviewed with SDCC later.

Westminster Co. Demolition Permit Application: D. Burns reported on the proposed demolition of 5930 Kingsbury. This four family building has been vacant for more than seven years. There is no roof structure and the back wall is falling down. The building commissioner wants Burns to begin renovating this building. There also aren't funds available for this at this time. There is also a question of whether the building is large enough to turn into condominiums.

Burns has applied for a demolition permit. The building commission can no longer deal with this property during the application process. SDCHC wishes to see if any other investor is willing to buy this building and is willing to request that Heritage and Urban design defer action on his application process for six months while developers are sought. Burns reports that the lot would be landscaped and an entrance monument erected if the building were demolished. In the mean time, a fence has been erected and must be maintained to keep children out.

Kingsbury Kiosk: There has been another incident at the library kiosk, a theft. The library wants to relocate this

branch, not close it. The options are to relocate the library into the SDCC offices or into the DeBaliviere Retail Centre. A committee to deal with this issue was formed. R. Roncal will chair. Members are G. Fox, R. Johnson, S. Polk, and A. Webb.

DeGiverville: There is a problem with people not observing and following the markings on the yard waste dumpsters. The Times will run a note asking residents to observe the signs.

Kingsbury Square: No report.

Nina Place: Another unit was sold. There are six units under construction left to be sold. The next phase can be started after one more is sold. FHA status has been reinstated.

Parkview: Stickers have been placed on dumpsters regarding yard waste.

Recycle: There will be a composting seminar on March 25 at 7:00 p.m. at New City School.

Rosedale: There has not been a meeting. One is scheduled for March 21st to set up a spring general meeting to deal with the Brightside Blitz and elections of officers.

SDCHC: The board continues to work on plans for property in its inventory.

S. Polk moved "That the minutes from the February 10, 1992 SDCC meeting be approved"; seconded by A. Webb and approved.

F. Driscole moved "That the annual financial report for 1991 be approved"; seconded by S. Polk and approved.

F. Driscole moved "That the Treasurer's Report for February be approved"; seconded by S. Polk and approved.

Director's Report

"Where We Live": Farmer explained the "Where We Live" program which is sponsored by the Missouri Historical Society, KMOV, KMOX, and the Post Dispatch. It will focus on the Skinker DeBaliviere neighborhood in June and kick off with a parade tentatively scheduled for June 6, 1992 at the Missouri Historical Society. A committee will be set up to work with this program.

M. Mayfield has withdrawn his application for a liquor license for a club on Delmar at Rosedale.

M. Jaffe is still working on plans for modular housing on Laurel.

Wabash Triangle Cafe: The Wabash Triangle Cafe has opened. It has a license to sell liquor but has not begun to do so yet.

Beautification Committee: The Beautification Committee will act as area commander of the Brightside Blitz on May 2, 1992. There will be a project at Four Corners.

New Business

Farmer discussed her possible candidacy for elected office. In order to do this, she will reduce her working hours at SDCC.

F. Driscole moved "That the SDCC Board of Directors has knowledge of the SDCC's Executive Director Nancy Farmer's intent to run for elected office. The Board hereby agrees that Farmer may continue to work as executive director with an average minimum of thirty hours a week from a time after April 1 through August 7, 1992, as agreed between the Director and the SDCC President with a fifteen percent salary reduction and continuation of full benefits. The director will account for the average of thirty hours of work per week with detailed time sheets. The offices and resources of the SDCC will not be used for campaign purposes, excluding storage space leased to others"; seconded by S. Polk and approved.

Meeting adjourned 9:30 p.m.

Learning About Our Neighbors: Shirley Polk and DeGiverville's Children

by Lana Stein



Shirley Polk

One evening last summer, when we walked home, a friend and I met two girls aged about six and eight on the 5700 block of DeGiverville. We asked the girls about school. The older one said that this had been the last day of the term and that she had gotten a good report card. She was going to show Mrs. Polk so she could get a reward.

Although I knew Shirley Polk from various council meetings, this was the first time I had heard of her activities with the children on her block. Subsequently, I discovered that such activities are long-standing and occur throughout the year.

Polk and her husband Al moved to their home on DeGiverville in 1968. They soon became active in Washington Heights. They helped to organize the Washington Heights baseball team. They also began a yearly tradition: a picnic for children from the block in Forest Park. The Polks have refreshments and various organized activities. In recent years, the SDCC has helped sponsor the event.

Shirley Polk also has sponsored various block parties. They would rope off the street and have a bazaar, a stage for entertainment, dancing, and various food stands.

Polk also has taken neighborhood kids apple picking in the fall and to be photographed with Santa Claus at Christmas. In 1983, she sponsored a fashion show with young people that was held at the old Stardust Theatre on DeBaliviere.

She has spearheaded the National Night Out observance on her block. Hot dogs are supplied and children have hula hoop and double dutch (jumprope) contests. There is entertainment too.

Polk also donates grass seed to be used on the block and works with the Old Newsboys every autumn to raise money for charity. She also serves on the St. Louis Advisory Council on Aging and, since 1987, she has been a board member of the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council.

I asked Shirley Polk why she undertook so many activities with the neighborhood kids. She replied that kids need a role model and she enjoys seeing them enjoy themselves.

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Armchair House Tour

by King Schoenfeld

The custom-built features of a 6-year-old Kingsbury Square "twin home," designed by its owner and the Martin Jaffe Construction Company, give it a remarkable spaciousness while retaining a cozy feel in its individual rooms.

The living room (right) and dining room (below) use mirrored walls to increase their apparent size dramatically.



Three years ago the owner and architect Richard Unterbrink turned the garage, originally adjacent to a small family room, into a large great room (above & below) which opens out onto a new swimming pool. Altogether, the layout and recent changes transform the home into an artistic and comfortable reflection of its owner's tastes.



The Schoenfelds, 61XX Westminster, always wanted to brighten their 1914 home with additional windows. When the roof of their pantry needed replacing, they decided to build a sunroom over it (left). To stretch every possible inch into their plan, they asked the architect, St. Louis Design Alliance, to cantilever the 9' X 14' addition on two sides. Built by David Havens Construction, a Skinker-DeBaliviere-based corporation, the room has nine casement windows and a ceiling fan. The family will install grey-blue and cream ceramic floor tile and build in much-needed storage space using vintage discarded panel doors. At the same time the Schoenfelds expanded the roof over their rear deck and added a skylight and outdoor ceiling fan.





Dr. Scott Jones, Parkview resident, takes time for an informal portrait after a day of yard work, part of ambitious plans for restoration of his home on Washington.

Parkview Physician Passionate About National Health Insurance

by Mary Ann Shickman

Scott Jones speaks with great compassion of the poor people coming to the emergency room where he moonlights. He told of a woman in her nineties who only came to please her granddaughter. Emergency room personnel were fascinated hearing about the folk-medicine she used through the years.

Scott grew up in Vinita Terrace. He finished high school in three years and then went to Drury College in Springfield, MO on an academic scholarship. He worked on pre-med studies as well as art history. He graduated from Washington University in 1981. He graduated from Kirksville College of Osteopathic Medicine in 1985 with an internship at Normandy Osteopathic Hospitals (now known as Deaconess North and West). During internships he lived in Central West End at the Jackson Arms. He moved to McPherson in Skinker DeBaliviere where he got a loan from Central West End Bank and had a rehab done by Mark Gorman. He moved from the Duplex which he still owns to his present home on Washington in Parkview. Dr. Jones was attracted to the Skinker DeBaliviere community because of its ethnic and cultural diversity and the great neighbors.

Scott is proud of his pets. Teaser, a Calico cat, won best looking cat in 1990 at the local Pet Picture Show. Winkey, a Siamese mix cat received honorable mention. Lestart, a Siberian Husky won grand prize in 1991. He also owns Otto, a small mutt.

Jones currently works at Healthline, a division of St. Louis University, as occupational medicine physician. There are six clinics throughout St. Louis with staffing at the Chrysler Plant in Fenton and nearly 3,000 active company clients. Jones is also working on a Masters of Public Health program at St. Louis University. His goal is to become Board Certified in Occupational and Public Health.

Jones believes that the United States has a strong need for health care

reform. He sees problems of access to health care for all people. For example, the costs of medical care are inadequately addressed by Medicaid and Medicare.

America is in the company only of South Africa when it comes to industrialized countries without national health care. There is a great need for better pre- and post-natal care. There are many economically depressed areas which are underserved because Medicaid and Medicare alone cannot support doctors. Insurance policies often exclude preventative health care, prenatal care, and mental health care.

Jones feels that adequate health care can not be provided with the current multi-tiered system consisting of private insurance and separate public health care providers. There are two physicians groups which support national health programs, Physicians for National Health Programs, and the American College of Physicians.

There is an immediate need for single party insurance according to Jones. There must also be greater access to medical care and an elimination of the stigma attached to "welfare" patients. Finally, there is a great need for better education.

Dr. Jones said that education is needed especially for issues related to sexuality. AIDS is an important concern for minorities. He said safe sex must be accepted in all cultural communities. Unplanned pregnancy rates are higher among those who can not afford adequate pre/post natal care. These pregnancies result in ill, malnourished women and children.

Education could also be helpful in changing the diets and lifestyles of Americans which cause such ailments as heart disease and cancer. One recent triumph for health care in the U.S. was the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act. This mandates access to public and private buildings and activities for the handicapped. This act has helped a large group of people who can now become active and productive.

LILLIAN BUCKHALTER, 79

by Faith Sandler

This is not an obituary. This is just an article that I've been meaning to write for about a year now but was only reminded to do so by the recent death of the heroine.

Lillian Buckhalter died Sunday, March 15 in a fire in her efficiency apartment, on the backside of the one-story apartment building at Des Peres and Washington. A detective was quoted in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, referring to Lillian as a "pack rat" and expressing astonishment at her collection of "more than 300 pairs of shoes—most of which didn't fit her." I wonder how he knew that, and if he ever saw the creative ways in which Lillian wore her shoes.

Evidently, her apartment was packed floor to ceiling, wall to wall, with things she had found here and there. Lillian was more than a collector of things the rest of us threw away, and that is the focus of this piece. Lillian was in charge of my alley, the one between Washington and Westminster. She knew every inch of the territory, not only from her search for treasures but also from her efforts to keep it as clean as she could. A small broom, with most of the strands worn down to nubs, and two specially fashioned sticks were her tools. One stick had a nail in the end so that items were more easily retrieved, while the other had an assortment of rags attached, making cleaning behind and beside the dumpsters an easier chore.

Lillian was out there every day, working hard to keep the leaves and trash from sullying the alley. In the heat of summer she wore a thick wool coat, claiming it kept her just as cool as could be. She could not manage the refrigerators and old dryers people have a habit of leaving in our alley, but everything else she assumed as her personal responsibility.

If you stopped long enough to speak with her, Lillian would mention that keeping the alley nice was her mission, her calling. She called herself a preacher you see, and if you went by the back of the apartments at just the right time you could see her extolling the wonders of the world and shaking her hands in the air to a throng of worshiping pigeons. In fact, when Lillian pulled food from the dumpsters she would explain that it was for the pigeons.

Lillian wore a necklace made of hundreds of keys she had found. It looked heavy, but very authoritative, as she patrolled the premises. She once told me that she had been living a life of sin, until one night she was awakened in the midst of a deep sleep to Jesus knocking loudly on her nightstand. He held an open bible, and inside it was a single key, and he told her to repent, to turn around, and to preach the word. She took the call, and has followed the Lord ever since. If you lingered too long in the alley, Lillian would make sure you got your daily dose of gospel, too.

As to the 300 pairs of shoes, Lillian did walk the alley all day. Shoes that

were too large were easily adapted by lacing them further up your shin than most shoes go. Shoes that were too small could be "extended" by use of carefully placed slits and duct tape. Last summer I guiltily discarded a pair of Nike hightops that had a ripped eyelet and were no longer supportive enough for aerobics only to see Lillian sporting them the very next day.

Lillian's life was by no means without difficulty. She had been hit by a car (deliberately, she thought) and often seemed hungry or cold. Hopelessly bored kids would sometimes taunt her, grabbing at the plastic bags she used to transport her findings and calling names. She'd defend herself by swinging her sticks around her until she cleared a space and the kids would eventually grow bored of this activity too.

Lillian was one of those people you could either be scared of, because they are different from you or anyone you've ever known (or at least it seems that way), or you could come to love her presence in the neighborhood, the important role she played.

Our neighborhood will remember Lillian. When Operation Blitz entices us all into the alley for one day of the kind of thing she spent each day doing, we become acutely aware of what we throw away.

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6110 WESTMINSTER - Handsome home (situated on a lot & a half) abounding with beautiful woodwork. Master bedroom w/ separate bath & walk-in closet. Finished lower level w/ large family room, bath, & laundry area. 4 bedrooms, 3 baths. Karleen O. Hoerr, 862-5071

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Vicissitudes

by Marj Weir

6100 Pershing neighbors, Jeff and Cynthia Wilkerson, and their infant son, Dylan, made the front page of the Washington Post on January 26, 1992. Their family provided the real-life example of the inadequacies of our health care delivery system in an article entitled "Health Coverage Worries Intruding Into More of Life's Choices." Dylan was born in November of 1990 with a defective heart. His father was laid off from a job with excellent medical coverage in the middle of Cynthia's pregnancy. When he found another job, the pregnancy was deemed a pre-existing condition and was therefore

uncovered by his new employer's insurance. After Dylan's birth, their insurance rates tripled to \$450 a month. Maintaining that coverage is essential as their medical bills for Dylan's surgeries and other care now reach into six figures. Their situation illustrates the larger problem of working families drained by a medical crisis. There is a bright side to this story. Dylan is happy and energetic and seems to be making good progress. Catherine Forslund reports that he is very cute, too!

Be sure to read the SDCC minutes for news of our neighbor, Nancy Farmer.

Stalwart Times workers, Venita and Rich Lake, brought home world-class colds from a recent 7-day cruise in the western Caribbean. During stops in Cozumel in Mexico, Grand Cayman, Jamaica, and Coco Cay they did a lot of snorkeling and underwater photography. Venita promises pictures for next month's issue if they turn out. The cruise line's regular stop at Haiti was skipped this time for

obvious reasons.

Debbie Irwin, daughter of Jim and Ruth Irwin of 6100 McPherson, has flown off to Cape Cod to work in "Nature's Classroom," an outdoor nature education camp.

Jack Wright, past president of the SDCC and longtime resident of Pershing, has taken up a new interest after his retirement from the Postal Service. He is interning at The New Theatre in stage management.

Working in front of the footlights at The New Theatre was our local actor/celeb, Dan Shea of the 6100 block of Kingsbury. Thorough reporting of his many appearances in this column has been difficult, but we will try to do better. Those of you who know him will have spotted him in several television commercials.

It's retirement for Bob Stewart of the 6100 block of Westminster. He will say goodbye to the University City Parks Department in early summer.

Finally, Rose Storey reports that her son, Martin, (he's George's son, too) will be married in August. His bride-to-be is one of eight children as well, so Rose says there'll be no room at the ceremony for anybody except family! The room at home will be expanding, however, as there is only one more at their Waterman home.

Please call Marj Weir, 863-7558, with your news for Vicissitudes. She has an answering machine that works when her children leave it alone.



Barbara Wnek of DeBaliviere Place celebrates the publication of her new book *Holiday Games and Activities*. Pictured with Wnek at Crossroads School are Jesse Wald (pumpkin), Ian Riekes-Trivers (snowman), Rob Vossmeier (bunny), and Ben Riekes-Trivers (turkey). Barbara teaches physical education in the Ferguson-Florissant School District.



Playing "Hole in One" game at the Mardi Gras celebration are kindergartener Peter Fanson and third grader Mike Korman.

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IN YOUR EAR

by Tom Hoerr

It's not something that I notice every day. Or maybe it is, but then I forget about it. The aging process, that is. One nice thing about lapses in memory is that while you forget what you wanted to buy at the grocery store, you also forget the things that you don't want to remember as well.

Oh, I'm growing older, there's no doubt about it. And I'm not complaining, given the alternative. Older I'm becoming, day by day by day. I've always considered myself an observer of the human condition. That's a pseudo-scientific way of saying that I like to watch other people. The airport is probably my favorite spot for doing this, followed by shopping malls, museums, and the dentist's office.

And for some time now I've been watching myself get older. Aging is a gradual process. There are times when I don't think I've changed much, and then I see a photo with me in it that was taken a couple of years ago. Gosh. I used to have much more hair, or was it simply the angle of the light at that particular time?

I really do think I look almost exactly the same as I did ten or twenty years ago. Honest. But then reality hits home. The other day I was interviewing someone and he mentioned that he was 45 years old. That's a year younger than I am. "Boy, he looks older than that, much older than I do," I thought. And then I wondered how I appeared to him and to the others around the table. Although I didn't want to confront it, I suspect that everyone would have said we were peers, maybe even that I am a bit older than he is.

One thing I am sure about is that it takes my body longer to recover from injuries. Even though I'm quickly nearing the end of my youth, I still don't act my age, so I play basketball and run fairly regularly. The good news is that my skill level, even as a full-fledged youth, was never that good, so there's not a lofty peak from which I've declined. I don't get frustrated wishing I could do what I used to do because what I used to do wasn't all that good to start with. The bad news is that when I hurt myself — running and tripping over a rock that I would have noticed a decade or two ago, landing wrong on my foot after jumping for a rebound that I would have easily snared in 1966 — it takes a long time for my body to recover.

I have a running partner who's almost my age but in much better shape. He's sort of my athletic conscience. Two or three times each week he shows up at my door at 5:50 a.m., already huffing and puffing from having run to my house. We then run together. Yesterday he tripped over a rock hidden by a leaf, and went down heavily. He lay writhing in pain for a while, then got up and continued to run. I was impressed because that same twist would have had me limping home. "I must really be getting old," I thought. "He's doing a much better job of recovering than I would." Not to worry. This morning he called to tell me he can hardly walk. At least I'm not getting older alone.

Getting older has really affected my sleep patterns. During my college days I remember staying up until 3:00 or 4:00 a.m., and sleeping until near noon. During the summers I used to have an automatic timer on my television so I could awaken to Art Fleming's "Jeopardy" at 11:00 a.m. Even as a graduate student, as late as the 1970's, I had difficulties getting up early. I had a job downtown and the parking lots had an "early bird" rate; if you had your car in by 9:00 a.m., it was much

cheaper than if you came later. What a struggle that was for me! Being downtown by 9:00 a.m. was more than I could do on a regular basis. As a result, I never got the worm and the early bird parking lot folks received more of my money than I would have preferred.

Now I find my circadian clock running in a different direction. I get up much earlier and have trouble staying up late. Breakfast meetings at the St. Louis Bread Company are the norm, and I'm delighted when someone can meet as late as 7:30 a.m. Part of this, I must admit, is my own doing. A few years ago I attended a seminar on "Situational Leadership" and heard the speaker talk about how the pace of life only gets quicker; it never slows and continues to ratchet as we take on more responsibilities and raise our own standards for our performance. He advocated getting up 30 minutes earlier each day, rather than timing the morning ritual as tightly as possible, and creating a quiet period for slowly making coffee, reading the paper, and so on. I've done this and am pleased with the results. While I still treasure those fleeting minutes lying in bed, I prefer those extra unhurried minutes, opening the paper and having time to hear the birds greet the morning. So I now add extra time to however long it'll take me to get ready each morning, just so I can have time to enjoy the start of the day. Just taking a few minutes to listen to

"Morning Edition" puts things in a good perspective.

But I've never seen Jay Leno. Oh, I've read about him, sure, but in the event that I'm lucky enough to stay up that late, inevitably I have other things to do, things that I didn't get to during the day. And David Letterman? He might as well be appearing in person at a West County comedy club; either way I'll never see him.

John, my athletic conscience, says that people need less sleep as they get older. That's why, he explains, people our age wake up several times during the night. "We need to rest, sure," he says, "but resting doesn't necessarily mean sleeping, and we need less sleep." For what it's worth, John is a lawyer, not a doctor.

My taste in music is changing, too, as I age. Oh, I still embrace the classics. Fleetwood Mac is providing background music as I write this, to be followed by the Beatles, Stones, and Gershwin. Yet, George Gershwin. Somehow, I've noticed Gershwin sound much better now than he did twenty or thirty years ago. Do you think he's improved that much? And, get this, I find myself appreciating Sinatra. Old Blue Eyes really does have an amazing voice! And I find myself really enjoying the jazz and Big Band Sounds on KWMU.

I read even more than I used to, but have difficulty finding fiction that will hold my interest. The daily N. Y. Times is a staple, and between it and the Post, along with my magazines and journals, there's not much time left for a real book. The real books that I do read tend to be professionally related, infor-

mative, and, I hate to admit it, pretty dry. But I enjoy them anyway. What, dare I ask, does that say about me? A colleague once said that until age 28 or 29, we are all broadening, trying new interests and investigating different fields. After that, he continued, we find a track and pursue it pretty intensively, narrowing ourselves in the process. I think he was right.

I've become more tolerant, or at least I think I have. Even my current wife says I'm more patient than when I was younger. I wish my dad were alive; he'd be very surprised to find that we now agree on so many issues. But the tolerance is for others. As I've grown older, I have come to expect more of myself. I how have decades of experience as a human being, so I should be better. Right?

And then there's death. The alternative to aging. I remember when death was something that happened only to other people and other people's friends and relatives. No more. Death used to be in a distant land, across the ocean of life and experiences; now it's around, always around, never far from consciousness. I check the obituaries each day, but I don't carefully read them; that would be making a statement which I'm not prepared to make. And close friends have died, from illness and one from suicide. Actually, the friends, the memories are still with me; it's only their bodies that are gone for now.

Life is a wonderful and interesting journey. There's no destination, I fear, simply a passage. I'm looking forward to seeing what happens next and reflecting upon my evolution.



From the Archives: Tom Hoerr through the years... Can you put these photos from 1986, 88 and 90 in the proper sequence?

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