

The *TIMES* of... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

Vol. 23 No. 8

February 1993

FREE

The oldest neighborhood newspaper in St. Louis

Introducing Our New SDCC Director: Kim Koenig

The new year opened with a new executive director assuming the reins at the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council. After almost 8 years of service, Nancy Farmer had departed to become our state representative in Jefferson City. The SDCC Board of Directors authorized Catherine Forslund, its president, to chair a search committee of 9 individuals representing all parts of the area to find a new director. After a number of meetings, many interviews, and deliberation the committee asked Kim Koenig if she would accept the position and she assented quickly.

Ms. Koenig was born in St. Louis and spent her very early childhood here. Her family moved to Milwaukee when she was 5 years old. When it came time to choose a college, Koenig returned to her roots and attended St. Louis University. There she majored in psychology and English. Directly after graduation, she began work on a master's degree in public administration at SLU. Her focus

in her graduate work was on problems with urban infrastructure. At this time, she also decided to make her home in St. Louis.

Koenig worked for Lou Berra and Associates, a consulting firm, that performed work for Operation ConServ. She did surveying and citizen polling. She then spent 7 months working at the St. Louis Development Corporation on the Downtown Plan.

Some of her associates at the Development Corporation told her about the opening at the SDCC. Funding has been uncertain at the Development Corporation and her tenure appeared to be limited to her work on the Plan, so she applied. Her desire to do so was strengthened by the many good things she had heard about the leadership in the Skinker DeBaliviere neighborhood and the continuing commitment to improvement. She also liked the idea of being able to work with a diverse group of people, something she had enjoyed while working on the downtown plan.

Koenig said that the potential success of Metrolink could have a very positive effect on the development of Skinker DeBaliviere.

Koenig's first priority item is the 50/50 grant for the Delmar commercial district. She is working hard to get 92 trees planted and to have the banners produced and hung. She is looking forward to working actively with the almost 20 businesses participating in this grant. She's also concerned about Union Electric's planned substation replacement in DeBaliviere Place and Walgreen's desire—once again—to locate at the intersection of DeBaliviere and DeGiverville.

The new director also said she wanted to have more interaction with the block units, especially on the issue of security. She's also looking forward to spring and the initiation of more activities for youth. In addition, she will work closely with the West End Arts



Kim Koenig

Council and the YAHOO project.

On a personal note, Kim Koenig is a newlywed who is learning about the joys of commuter marriage. Her husband is a consultant for a telecommunications software company and often travels to Denver and points outside the United States. Luckily, he can also be home for extended periods of time.

Crossroads School and New Head Anne Spencer

by Lana Stein



Anne Spencer

In a recent conversation with its new head, Anne Spencer, I learned a great deal about Crossroads School and the type of education it offers its 160 students. Crossroads was founded as a middle school in 1974 by Arthur and Carol Lieber and was located in Laclede Town. In 1980, Crossroads moved to its present location on DeBaliviere and added high school grades.

Crossroads' student body is quite diverse: At least 25% of the student body is African American, Asian, or Hispanic. Students come from 35 different zip codes, ranging from Union, MO to the west and the Illinois side on the east. A quarter of the students

receive either partial or complete financial aid and this aid takes up 14% of the operating budget. Students range in ability from average to very gifted and all are preparing for college. There are athletes, artists, and intellectuals in the student body and students' interests range from the humanities to the hard sciences. Soccer players and chess players rub elbows everyday. There is no dominant group or culture. Each group is equally important.

Spencer brings a strong academic background to her post at Crossroads. She was hired in April of 1992 and took over the reins at Crossroads on July 1. She has a bachelors degree from Wellesley and an Master of Arts in history from Columbia University. In 1968, her family relocated to St. Louis and her husband is now an associate vice president at Webster University. After moving here, Spencer enrolled at Washington University, working toward a doctorate in history. She completed all but dissertation and worked as a teaching assistant there as well as an instructor in University College. She also taught history on a part time basis at Florissant Valley Community College. During this period, she had two children who are now almost grown.

Spencer began fulltime work at the Thomas Jefferson School in Sunset Hills. It is a small coed day boarding school. She was dean of students.

Immediately before coming to Crossroads, she spent two years at Country Day School teaching history and handling admissions.

Spencer welcomed the opportunity to be head at Crossroads. She feels that she probably wanted such a job for a long time. The school is located in her favorite part of town and she likes the close-knit community there. She believes education truly occurs at Crossroads and wants "more people to learn about this wonderful school."

The Crossroads family, according to Spencer, has a high degree of social awareness and concern. There is a sensitivity to gender issues. And, there is a respect and tolerance for other points of view.

The first week of January this year was multicultural week. The students themselves created the curriculum. They looked at many of the various cultures that make up the U.S. Speakers, dancers, and mask makers were featured.

Spencer is pleased that a very high percentage of Crossroads graduates go on to college. A 1989 graduate, Dylan Calsyn, has been nominated for a Rhodes scholarship by Northwestern University. Two students, Jon Walker and Chuck Thomas were chosen as semifinalists among 1,500 students nationwide in the 1993 National Achievement Scholarship Program for Outstanding Negro Students. Recent graduates attend such schools as Northwestern, University of Chicago, Washington University, Wellesley, and Carleton College.

Crossroads has a very active thespian group. In December, the group traveled to Peculiar, MO and competed successfully in a statewide competition. Another group of students participates in mock trials to prepare for possible legal careers.

Students at Crossroads profit from a great deal of interaction with their teachers. Spencer says "this allows for the development of an ethical stance and the exploration of problems." The "us-them" dichotomy between students and teachers is mitigated, Spencer feels. Class size is small and one-on-one teaching is possible. The school's size also permits a good deal of flexibility: the school can respond to students on short notice. The emphasis at Crossroads, Spencer points out, is clearly on students learning rather than on teachers teaching.

Spencer's favorite discovery at Crossroads is that the students write beautifully. She did not have to teach them how to do an essay. She also found the level of artistic and dramatic expression to be outstanding.

Spencer wants to continue improving the school. She says that the faculty is committed to improved courses and maintaining an interdisciplinary and multicultural aspect. A new course has just been created—Humanitas—that combines history, literature, and art in the study of western and nonwestern societies. Spencer also favors enhanced relationships between science and the humanities.

Editor's Notebook

by Lana Stein

In coming months, I will return to more general themes dealing with urban conditions. However, I want to ask your indulgence now to speak of the Times and its condition. My goal in becoming editor was to have a paper reflective of the neighborhood and its diversity and I think we're getting there. There were two things I was not fully cognizant of when I assumed the position. The first was that it is hard to attract a coterie of good writers when everyone works full-time and is otherwise involved in the community, etc. Therefore, I would like to ask all of you to think about reporting on something for the paper. It can be about school events, church programs, or whatever you might be interested in. Just let me know...

Second, I really did not anticipate what a chore fund raising could be or how omnipresent the need for fund raising was. It costs us over \$700 to produce each issue. That is certainly more than our ads generate. So, we

need your help. Many have replied to the little envelopes stuffed into December's issue. And, we thank you. But, as I indicated, it's an ongoing need. A bunch of us decided that we would try a different type of event to garner dollars, an event to test the intellectual acumen or perhaps more accurately the unusual ability to recall seemingly unimportant trivia. Several of our group participated in a trivial pursuit fundraiser hosted by St. Louis University High in the fall. They loved it and were eager to do it again. And, so we will to benefit the Times! This event will take place in late March. We'll send out all kinds of notices. We just want you to know it's coming and to hope you'll join us in fun, trivia, and the achievement of trivial awards for the winners. If you know you'd like to help out please give me a call at 721-7532. And, I promise no more mention of money in this space again—at least till next year.

An Open Letter to The Dog Walkers on the 6100 Block of Kingsbury

Belated holiday greetings to you and your dog!

I have in my possession a bill of \$78.35 for rug cleaning due to your dog's droppings. Guests, children, and grandchildren coming into the house during the holiday season unfortunately stepped into your dog's " " There is a law on the city books regarding cleaning up after your "darling." How about a New Year's resolution to do just that?

If I happen to observe your dog evacuating on the lawn in front of my house, (with you casually standing by), I will assume my rug cleaning bill belongs to you, and I will send it to you.

Let's begin the new year with consideration to your neighbors. Enjoy your dog and ALL that goes with the animal.

Wilma B. Cantwell, 6119 Kingsbury



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Editor: Lana Stein
Business Manager: Marj Weir
Production Manager: Venita Lake

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 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 or 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.



Neighborhood Meetings:

Feb. 18

28th Ward Regular Democrats,
7 p.m.
Call 727-1727 or 454-1863

Mar. 8

Skinker DeBaliviere Community
Council Board of Directors,
6010 Kingsbury, 7:30 p.m.

Other Nearby Events of Interest:

Jan. 30 - Mar. 19

"Long Winding Road: Immigration
and Identity for Three Filipino-
American Artists" at the Anheuser-
Busch Gallery at COCA,
524 Trinity, U City.

Feb. 4-21

The New Theatre presents "Smoke
on the Mountain"
at First Unitarian Church,
5007 Waterman.

For information, call 781-9314.

Feb. 5-Apr. 18

"Visions of the People:
A Pictorial History of Plains Indian
Life" at the Special Exhibition
Galleries at the Art Museum.

Feb. 5-6

In Celebration of Black History
Month, Janet Kiefer, Blake Travis,
and Glynis Brooks perform at
CASA, 560 Trinity, U City.
For information, call 863-3033.

Feb. 6

West End Wines and the St. Louis
Classical Guitar Society will host a

musical to benefit the
Guitar Society. At 307-309 Belt
from 7:30 - 10:00 p.m.

Will feature John McClellan and
the St. Louis Guitar Quartet.
Admission \$10 (\$7 for members);
hor d'oeuvres and two beverages
included.

Feb. 7

"Music of Czechoslovakia"—
Smetana, Dvorak, Janacek.
Performed by St. Louis Chamber
Chorus, St. John Nepomuk Church,
1625 S. 11th St., 3 p.m.

Feb. 9

"The History of the African-
American Community in
St. Louis" presented at the Old
Courthouse, 11 N. Fourth St., at
7p.m. Featured speakers are his-
tory professor Nancy Grant of
Washington U. and James
McLeod, dean of the College of
Arts and Sciences at
Washington U.

Feb. 27

"Call Out My Name," an original
play dealing with American slav-
ery, written by Kay Kuhlmann and
Gerald Early, at 10:30 a.m. and
noon at the History Museum.
For 7th graders and older. Free;
reservations advised.

Feb. 28

History Museum presents
"Remembering the Struggle:
The African-American Experience
in 20th-Century St. Louis" dealing
with the East St. Louis race riot of
1917, the Jefferson Bank protest,
etc. Glynis Brooks narrates. Free.

Contributors to the Times - Oct. 1992 - Jan. 1993

Jim and Ann Ackerson
Blueberry Hill
Shirley Bissen and Peter
Lukasiewicz
Dawn Blobaum and Jim
Bartles
Bette and Joe Botz
Ken Cohen and Margie
Brammeier
Wilma Cantwell
Brian Clavinger
Nancy Farmer
Catherine Forslund and B.
Roy Roncal
Jim and Susan Gamble
Lily B. Greene
Patricia Hartman
Tom and Karleen Hoerr
Dan and Ingrid Keleti
Dee Joyce-Hayes and Gary
Hayes
Daniel and Ingrid Keleti
Marsha Kerz
Paul and Katie Kurtz
Rick and Venita Lake
Jerry and Claudia Lawrenz
Anne Lardeau
Michael and Ellen Lowenstein

Trisha and Bob Martin
Dan and Jill McGuire
Gary and Anne Miller
Jacqueline and Winston Miller
Peggy Neilson
Al and Shirley Polk
Hitch and Mary Powell
Rosedale Neighborhood
Association
Sue and Sandy Rothschild
Dave and Barbara Schmidt
Mary and Peter Schmidt
Lucille and Vince Schoemehl
King and Dee Schoenfeld
Richard and Hillary Shewmaker
Mary Ann Shickman
Robert Stock
Robin and Darrell Stoecklin
George and Rose Storey
Debbie Twellmann
Meg Ullmann
JoAnn and Neville Vatcha
Jan Waits
Arlene Webb
Marj and Brad Weir
Maverine Wilson
Ron and Maren Yeska
John Zoll

A Joyous King Commemoration

On a cold and wintry day, many people fought snowy streets to join together at Grace and Peace Church to commemorate the life and teachings of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The mood of the occasion was set by an outstanding series of vocal presentations. The choir of the New Cote Brillante Church of God opened the program with spiritual numbers that captured the intent of the occasion. Then, the stage was filled by second graders from New City School who brought back the sounds of the civil rights movement. Some in the audience were moved back in time by hearing the words of "This Little Light of Mine" and especially "Come on up to the front of the bus; I'll be sitting right up there."

is okay. He said that to make it in this country, you have to prepare yourself. We can solve the problems in this city. We need more fellowship and more parents involved with their kids, according to the lieutenant colonel.

The choice is nonviolence or nonexistence according to Henderson. "We have to learn to live together in peace."

Two sisters attending St. Roch's school used poetry to illustrate Dr. King's message. Langston Hughes' words struck many chords. Seventh graders from Crossroads School also used poetry effectively to illustrate the lessons from Dr. King's life.

Music again became the highlight of the afternoon. Lydia Ruffin of Grace and Peace Fellowship sang beautifully. Her rendition of "Amazing Grace" will not soon be equaled for anyone. The program closed as the New Cote Brillante Church of God choir led the audience in "We Shall Overcome."

Jack Wright, of 58xx Pershing, who has helped to organize these commemorations for a number of years, served as the master of ceremonies. Rev. Egon Middelmann of Grace and Peace Fellowship made opening remarks and the Rev. Mikki Merritt of the New Cote Brillante Church of God offered the closing remarks.

Sponsors this year were the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council, Grace and Peace Fellowship, and the New Cote Brillante Church of God with the very active participation of New City School, St. Roch's School, Hamilton Elementary School, and Crossroads School. The sponsors provided refreshments after the commemoration to attendees and participants in the program.



New Cote Brillante Choir

Third and fourth graders from Hamilton School then spoke—in their own words—of what peace means to them. They said in part that peace meant to stop killing other people, loving others and treating people fairly.

The principal speaker was Lt. Colonel Ronald Henderson of the St. Louis Metropolitan Police. Henderson, a member of the police force since 1970, participates in the Dr. Martin Luther King Support Group that avows the philosophy King proclaimed. Henderson told those assembled that he did not really understand nonviolence in the 1960s. He had to come to realize what it was. What was King's dream? Henderson said that King spoke of the human race, of all God's children, of us all getting along. How do we treat people who don't look like us? Henderson said we all have our prejudices within us. We have to work on winning folks over, not on winning over them.

Henderson said that St. Louis is not being overrun. Many are getting involved with working with young people. But, people are getting killed here. Fighting is not the answer. We have to go back to the dream and live with each others as brothers and sisters. Otherwise, we will perish.

In 1989, Henderson was selected as the captain of the second district in south Saint Louis. He was to be the first black captain there. He decided to be a captain who just happens to be black. It worked and was the most inspiring part of his career. Henderson said that we have to understand that being different



Lt. Colonel Ronald Henderson



St. Roch students



Hamilton School students



Crossroads School students



New City School students

THE WABASH TRIANGLE CAFE: New Tastes for New Times

by Dina Vatcha

The next time you're choosing where to dine, you may want to experience the out-of-the-ordinary taste and atmosphere of the Wabash Triangle Cafe. It is an interesting restaurant that is a great addition to our neighborhood selection of dining.

As my friend and I walked into the Cafe, our eyes opened wide. "Where should we sit?" was the question. The Cafe has an interesting array of different tables and chairs. We chose a small table and sat down. The people were very friendly. We took our time in ordering.

The selection was interesting. We decided to get the "Veggie Pineapple Pizza," the "Toast Hawaii" and a "Caesar Salad." Unsure of what these items would really taste like, we waited for our food. Shortly after, we were served and pleasantly surprised by how delicious everything was.

The "Toast Hawaii" was a baked dish of Texas Toast topped with ham, pineapple, cherries, and cheese. It sounded a bit weird, but it was a good combination. The "Veggie Pita Pizza" was a piece of pita covered with vegetable and cheese. We both



enjoyed our entrees. The salad was also good — a simple Caesar Salad.

Each entree was a large portion, especially for the price. A meal for two would cost you between \$15-20, including drinks and tip. The menu includes a variety of sandwiches, cold and hot, from \$3.50 to \$4.95, and the entrees range from several Vegetarian specialties to a Strip Steak for \$5.95.

Salads and soups (including French Onion Soup) are also available.

The restaurant has a large selection of coffees, including Espresso, Latte, Cappuccino, Borgia and more. It also has a room designated for diners who want a place for smoking. There is a large bar, and beer, wine, and Wassail are offered, along with many non-alcoholic beverages, including several juices and bottled H₂O.

Finishing our meal, we took a look at the furniture and decorations that fill the restaurant. Near us were chairs perfect for lounging while drinking coffee or enjoying a musician play. A recording by THE CURE was playing while we ate lunch. But the Wabash Triangle Cafe frequently offers live performances by local musicians and small theatre presentations. I look forward to returning to attend some of these musical events. To find out what's happening when, call 721-4112.

Different photographs and artworks hang from the wall. Behind the stage is a painting of two Indians and a quote by Mark Twain. To us, it seemed like someone had made their dream come true. They had fun with making their restaurant be what they wanted it to be. Not conforming to the mainstream, the restaurant maintains an extremely comfortable atmosphere. I recommend that you put it on your list for places to eat. It is definitely different and something new.



Jazz Comes to West End Wines

by Melanie Harvey

West End Wines brings live acoustic music to the neighborhood on Friday evenings, beginning January 22, with the appearance of jazz pianist Kim Portnoy. Mr. Portnoy is a native St. Louisan and a brilliant musician. Jazz buffs have treasured him for years; he is also a composer and arranger and he teaches at Webster University. He has been

playing at Just Jazz in the Hotel Majestic as part of the Steve Kirby Trio. He was pianist in the Steve Kirby Sextet which won the Grand Prize in the Hennessey Cognac "Best of St. Louis" Jazz Contest in December.

Kim will be joined by other local artists, beginning with Steve Schenkel on guitar (Jan. 22), fol-

lowed by Rick Vice on bass (Jan. 29 through February). The music will begin at 8:30 p.m., with a second set about 9:30. The bar will close at 11:00 p.m. There will be a \$3.00 cover per evening and a one drink minimum per set.

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Longtime Resident of Kingsbury Finds Wonderful People in Neighborhood

by Mary Ann Shickman

On December 6th, 1941, the day before the United States entered World War II, the Cunningham family—children Celestine, Robert, Virginia and their parents—moved into a large home in the 6100 block of Kingsbury. It is still the family home after 51 years.

"Kingsbury Place was a very patriotic neighborhood," Celestine recalls. "There were stars in the windows marking the homes that gave men and women to the service of their country."

Dorris Celestine Cunningham graduated from high school in 1931. Her brother and sister were in college, but Celestine wanted to explore her world. She worked at a dime store for three years, then pursued her formal education at Southeast

State Teachers' College. Later she attended Washington University School of Fine Arts, studying painting under artist Fred Conway. She has since had her landscape paintings and her extraordinary quilts exhibited here.

After graduation, Celestine went to work as an art teacher at Wellston Junior High School, where most of the students were African American. Celestine proved a great favorite, because of her warmth, kindness and good humor.

One of her teaching colleagues there recalls the moment when the assassination of President John Kennedy was announced over the school loudspeakers. Many of the students ran in tears to

Celestine to be comforted.

Her sister, Virginia, retired from her career with the St. Louis Public Library, is now in a nursing home. Her brother, Bob, died four years ago, and his daughter lives with Celestine.

Ms. Cunningham speaks wistfully of those earlier days when neighbors sat on their porches or strolled down the street. "It was so friendly with conversations always going on. Perhaps it was television and central air conditioning that made people go inside their houses and close the doors," she muses wistfully.

"But things are different again—things have turned around," she adds. Relying on her neighbors and a visiting caregiver from the Cardinal Ritter Institute, Ms. Cunningham finds that "there are so many wonderful people in the neighborhood. It gives me a feeling of comfort that they are there if anything goes wrong."

Wilma Cantwell, Ms. Cunningham's next door neighbor, calls Celestine "a fantastic neighbor." To illustrate, she recalls the time years ago that Wilma's son, Tim, fell and injured himself. Since no family car was available, Celestine took him to the emergency room.

Wilma has watched out for Celestine, as well. "She has supplied many, many meals to our house," says Celestine.

While a supportive member of First Presbyterian Church, Ms. Cunningham is an active supporter of St. Roch Church. A quilt she donated for the St. Roch Bazaar appeared recently in the Times.

Celestine enjoys good health, except for her arthritis, and passes the time watching TV and solving Seek and Find puzzles. "And I enjoy the company of my niece, Charlotte, who also lives with me," adds Celestine. She also corresponds with a former student at Wellston Junior High, Diane Harper, now a Captain in the Salvation Army.

Those who visit and spend time with this lovely lady realize that, in addition to her friends, she also has a million wonderful memories to call upon.



Long-time Kingsbury resident, artist and teacher Celestine Cunningham, enjoys the demanding detail work required to create quilts such as the one shown here.

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SKINKER DEBALIVIERE COMMUNITY COUNCIL BOARD MEETING

November 9, 1992

Attending the meeting were: Directors A. Smith-Carr, C. Forslund, G. Fox, R. Johnson, S. Johnson, M. Merritt, R. Roncal, L. Stein, N. Vatcha, A. Webb, J. Wright and Executive Director N. Farmer and Conserv Officer J. Waits.

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 p.m.

Parkview The Agents questioned if the area had experienced an increase in crime. Farmer reported that in fact, there was a decrease in crime compared to last year. Parkview residents are also concerned about a Bus Stop on the west side of Skinker near Millbrook; buses block traffic at this stop and during rush hours it aggravates the already congested intersections.

Rosedale Roncal reported that the Halloween party was a great success. Santen was surprised with a sculpture by Wm. Christman and a Proclamation from the Mayor's Office presented by Alderman McGuire.

Housing Corporation Farmer reported that the ranchettes at 521 Des Peres are now vacant. SDCHC will advertise in an RFP to convert them into two accessible condominiums.

West End Arts Council The organization is recruiting members for its board.

Selection Committee Forslund reported that there are 20 applicants so far. *The Central West End Journal* and the *Times* will each run stories/ads about the position this week which may generate other applications. An ad has not been placed in the *American* as planned. Farmer will place the ad this week. The original deadline for applications was November 9; this deadline will be extended to the 20th. The Selection Committee will review resumes and schedule interviews as quickly as possible. Forslund hopes to offer the position to someone early in December.

Director's Report

Commercial District Farmer updated the Board on the Theme District Grant: 94 locations for street trees have been identified, a design for the banners has not yet been selected, and the 50/50 grant program for facade improvements is going slowly, but well. Farmer will meet with business operators on Thursday to discuss the Redevelopment Plan.

The December meeting was scheduled for:
Tuesday, December 15, 1992
7:30 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Vicissitudes

by Marj Weir

As I sit down to compose my characteristically tardy column, I am listening to Garrison Keillor and his American Radio Theater, who and which will be broadcasting from Powell Hall in early February. For you devotees who hadn't heard this fact (spent the winter in a cave, did you?) let me dampen your excitement with the news that the show is a sellout and you and I are SOL, which for the family audience means "sadly out of luck." For those of who regularly miss this and the other offerings on KWMU (90.7 FM) may I suggest you try it. But I digress. A word to the wise, however. I am in charge of The Times' Gala Trivia Contest in March and a question might come out of one of the Saturday morning or Sunday

evening offerings from PBS. Caveat triviatior.

The Times' Gala Trivia Contest in March on a date to be announced will be more fun than you are usually allowed to have at your age enhanced by the exquisite prizes which will be awarded. This will be team event, so be organizing your group of six. You needn't be part of a group to join in as we'll make up tables as necessary. There'll be snack food and a cash bar to support your competitive spirit. There will be no rocket science questions, so don't be intimidated if you usually don't shine at Trivial Pursuit. We're not using their questions. We're making up a whole new group of puzzlers aimed at all kinds of specialized life experience.

Call me at 863-7558, if you want to join the committee. There's a lot of dirty work to be done that I'd like to avoid. If you don't help, Brad will have to do it.

During the holidays there was no doubt no end of exciting news which has largely escaped me. I am delighted to report that Karleen Hoerr is doing well in her usual indomitable fashion after her surgery in November. She is back to work, taking on what is necessary with great aplomb.

JoAnn Vatcha is feeling more steady on her feet after her on-the-job plunge into the basement of a dark, vacant house. She didn't fall down the stairs; she fell through the hole where the stairs had once been. Though she felt quite battered for a

couple of months, she escaped with a back strain, a bone chip in her ankle, and a bump on the head. (You'll notice I didn't say "only." There wasn't anything "only" about it, I'm sure.)

Rick Bender (61XX Kingsbury) and Renni Shuter (62XX McPherson) have announced that they will be running for the St. Louis School Board in April. We appreciate their willingness to serve and wish good luck to both of them.

Warmest thanks also to those of you who returned our little envelopes with a contribution to The Times. Without your help we'd be history.

Never Never Chili

by Rich Lake

Ingredients

1 lb ground beef (I use ground round.)
 1 yellow onion, chopped
 1/4 green pepper, chopped
 1/4 sweet red pepper, chopped
 1 large clove garlic, minced
 1 16 oz. can tomatoes, coarsely chopped with juice
 1 cup catsup
 3/4 cup water
 1 8 oz. can tomato sauce
 1 tsp salt
 1/8 tsp crushed red pepper flakes
 1/2 tsp oregano
 2 tsp ground cumin
 2 Tbs chili powder
 1 Tbs paprika
 2 16 oz cans red, kidney and/or pinto beans

Directions:

Brown ground beef, onion, garlic, and chopped peppers in a large skillet or dutch oven. Add chopped tomatoes, catsup, water, tomato

sauce and seasonings. Simmer over low heat for 20 to 30 minutes. Drain canned beans and add to seasoned meat. Simmer an additional 20 minutes or so. Serve. Top with chopped onion and or shredded cheddar or monterey jack cheese if desired.

COOK'S NOTES

I call this never never chili because it never comes out the same way twice and because I never had a recipe until THE TIMES demanded one. The chili is simmering as I write this.

There are several personal quirks in this recipe. I use catsup to balance off the acid in the canned tomatoes rather than adding sugar and I like the flavor that catsup adds. I like my chili a little "soupy" so I add water. I put oyster crackers in my chili when I eat it and they absorb the liquid.

This recipe is only moderately

spicy. The classic Texas grades are 1, 2, and 3 alarm chili. (There is also a version called mother-in-law but I am not going into the history of that.) This recipe would be a low end 2 alarm. If you like yours with more fire, I recommend adding another 1/8 tsp of crushed red pepper flakes and a 1/2 tsp cumin to the pot or a little Louisiana Hot Sauce in your bowl.

I know many chili fans would never add beans to chili but I like mine "carne" and "frijole." I simmer the beans with the meat and seasonings for 20 minutes so the beans will absorb some of the seasonings. It should be obvious by now that even though I have carefully measured all of the ingredients in an effort to faithfully reproduce the chili I brought to the Great Cookoff, my recipe is still very much one which allows for (perhaps even demands) a significant dose of the cook's personality.

28h Ward Selects New Officers

At its monthly meeting on November 19, the 28th Ward Regular Democrats elected new officers. Ward President will be Maxine Harvey. Vice President is Sam Green. Terry Garrett will serve as Vice President for Special Projects. The Secretary is Dorothy Jackson and Treasurer is Dave Schmidt.

The newly elected precinct captains are as follows:

Prec. 1 Bill Kuehling
 Prec. 2 No voters
 Prec. 3 Brad Weir
 Prec. 4 Newton McCoy
 Prec. 5 Nancy Farmer
 Prec. 6 JoAnn Vatcha
 Prec. 7 John George Storey
 Prec. 8 Al Polk
 Prec. 9 Marinda Wright
 Prec. 10 Richard Harvey
 Prec. 11 Mike Crawford
 Prec. 12 Ellie Watts
 Prec. 13 Gary Behm
 Prec. 14 Lyda Krewson
 Prec. 15 Peter Tessler

The 28th Ward also has formed an advisory steering committee to be composed of all elected officials residing within the ward.

St. Roch Pre-School Registration

Open house and registration for the school year 1993-94 at St. Roch Early Childhood Educational Center, 6040 Waterman Blvd., will be Sunday, February 21 from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. Children who will be 3 years old by July 1 are eligible to enroll.

St. Roch's invites you to come by and learn about the exciting programs for your preschooler. Enrollment is limited so delay could lead to disappointment. For more information, call Wilma Cantwell at 726-2830.



THE SKINKER DEBALIVIERE COMMUNITY COUNCIL is spring cleaning!

Due to the recent changes, including a new Director, we will be putting a new coat of paint on our walls. We will need the help of volunteers to move furniture, take pictures down, and of course, PAINT. Please call the Council office at 862-5122 to sign up. Refreshments/lunch included.

In Your Ear

by Tom Hawkeye Hoerr

I've finally decided. After fifteen years of running schools, I'm changing professions. It's not that I'm unhappy or unchallenged. No, if anything, I'm too happy and too challenged. I believe in the law of averages, and knowing how many people dread going to work, it doesn't seem fair that I should get up every morning excited about what I do for a living. As much as I like my job, it probably means that two or three people have to hate theirs for things to even out. And that's not fair. So I'm going to make the BIG MOVE. I'm leaving the school business.

I'm going to get into dog grooming, poodles specifically.

Now this may sound like quite a switch to you. No doubt those of you who know me intimately — well, relatively intimately anyway — figured that I'd join the presidential diplomatic corps, given my polish and smooth demeanor. Or maybe you thought that I'd give it one more shot at professional football. Probably the bulk of you thought that I'd go to Hollywood and be a stand-in for Tom Selleck. He and I are often confused, so this move wouldn't require much work on my part. (I remember seeing him once on "Larry King Live," and Larry asked him what was the most frustrating part of his life. Selleck got this funny look on his face and said, "Who's this Tom Hoerr fellow anyway? Everywhere I go people keep confusing me with him.")

I'm not opting for something easy. I want a challenge, one that will allow me to tap into my reservoir of unused artistic abilities and sophisticated small-motor control. I don't like the sight of blood, so neurosurgery is out. Dog grooming it is.

I mean, how difficult can it be to get the shears and start carving? And I like dogs. I could set up a small studio, somewhere high overlooking the park with lots of windows, turn my CD up loud, programming 15 or 20 consecutive plays of Bob Dylan singing "It Ain't Me Babe," and away we go.

Marketing has always been an interest of mine,

so it'd be no great shakes to figure out a way to get all of the LaDue-ites to bring their pooches to my place. I'd feature a "Dudley Grove for Mayor" sign on the front door, so that would attract the young, smart set. I'd have an electronic board with running quotes from the New York Stock Exchange in my waiting room; that would attract the over-60 set. And to attract the poodle owners from Affton, I'd offer free jello salad. To the owners, of course.

I don't know if you're familiar with the range of poodle cuts. There's what I term "The Bonaparte"; that's the traditional goofy-looking one in which the dog's stomach and neck are trimmed while hair is left around the chest and hips. The dog winds up looking a bit like a wiener with a fungus. That will be a no-no at my shop. If someone really wants a Bonaparte cut for their dog, they'll either need to go to France or Belleville, whichever is closer. And if you watched "60 Minutes" not long ago, you may understand that France could be closer.

And then there's "The Perot." That's where the dog is almost entirely clean shaven, but lots of hair is left around the ears. Dogs with this cut bark a lot and are very nervous. "The Bush" cut is one where you keep changing directions with the electric razor, going back and forth and reversing yourself; there's no real goal. Usually four years of this cut is all a dog or its owner can take. In "The Clinton cut," you start out with big promises and begin cutting the dog delicately with surgical scissors. At the end you wind up using a lawnmower. Nope, I won't be doing any of these. My grooming shop will be totally apolitical (except for the "Schoemehl For Mayor In 1997" sign in the front window.)

"The Punk" is a popular poodle cut these days. The dog gets a semi-Mohawk on its head, complete with a rat-tail. A few times, I've even seen this capped by the dog having a pierced earring on the dog's the left ear! (Honest, I wouldn't kid you about this.) Even I consider that bizarre. A clip-on earring is another matter, of course. I suspect selling clip-ons, particularly those featuring Snoopy or

Goofy, would be a nice revenue source. Heck, some people might buy them for their dogs too.

Then there's "The Sheep." This is a cut in which only the hair around the dog's eyes is trimmed. The dog's hair on the body keeps getting bigger and bigger, until the dog looks a bit like a giant fuzz ball with legs. If you are considering a career in smuggling, this would be a great cut for your pet. It's possible to hide pounds of contraband in the dog's hair! And as long as the dog doesn't have to go through the metal detector and you don't mind fleas, you're in the money.

An innovation I'll introduce will be "The Buzz" (named after a guy I knew, sort of, in college). I've been practicing this with our elder dog, Moxie, and he looks quite nice. Yes, detractors might say that it looks like he walked into a buzz saw, but I think he looks rather handsome. He's clearly pleased with himself, and stops to look in the mirror each time he walks by. Boomer, the distaff member of our twosome, is wanting a Buzz, but I'm not sure that it would go well with her complexion. Actually, I'm thinking of something a bit longer for her, to bring out her winter colors.

Of course, this is just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to poodle haircutting options. I'll also offer "The Ashcroft" (lots of movement with a hot-air blower, but very little action), "The Cher" (a very long mane, no body hair, sequins glued to the skin), and "The Casper" (doesn't really matter what it looks like, I'll ask for your pardon afterwards).

Gosh, I'm excited about this new career. No more early-morning breakfasts or late-night meetings. No more complaining staff members or unhappy parents. No more overflowing toilets without a plumber in sight. All I have to worry about is dogs that bite, ticks, fleas, checks that bounce, and people who actually pay to have someone cut their dog's hair. Coming soon: Dogs R Us!

IF YOU'RE COLLEGE BOUND, YOU'RE BOUND TO NEED A LOAN.

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