

The TIMES of... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

Vol 24 No. 1

April 1993

FREE

The oldest neighborhood newspaper in St. Louis

Times Trivia Party/Contest to be held on April 17

Who invented peanut butter?

*What's the positive electrode
of a battery called?*

*What is the one-man sled
Olympic event called?*

*What game do Steve McQueen
and Edward G. Robinson play in
The Cincinnati Kid?*

*What is the capital of South
Carolina?*

These questions will not be among those in our Trivia Contest on April 17, but similar ones will. For a modest \$10 per person, which will go toward financing our ever-stressed, all-volunteer neighborhood newspaper, competitors may do brainy battle for fame and prizes (more fame than prizes). Dan Shea has agreed to serve as our "Quizmaster." Should Broadway call on Dan (whose acting career is on the front-burner these days) at the last minute, Dan McGuire has agreed to do the honors.

There will be snacks to keep up the combatants' strength, a cash bar to keep up their spirits, and good company to underscore the thrill of victory and to assuage the agony of defeat. We need YOU to make that last part happen and to make the event a success. Put together a table of six or, better yet, two tables of six and reserve them NOW. We'll give early birds the special price of \$50 for a table of six. That's a 16.7 percent discount off the at-the-door price. It is important to us to know you're coming so that we can have adequate tables and chairs --and beer.

For those who are born competitors at heart, we are providing the general topics from which questions will be taken. Studying probably won't help you win, but it can't do you any harm!

Topics

Sports

Arts and Letters

Entertainment

Geography

Hobbies and Crafts

Spelling

Politics

Mathematics and Science

St. Louis Celebrity Questions

Current and

Not So Current Events

Members of the Trivia Contest Committee are

Katie Kurtz

Dan McGuire

Dee and King Schoenfeld

Lois Schoenfeld

Lana Stein

Jo Ann Vatcha

Marj Weir

Kathleen Williams

To reserve a table or individual places, call Marj Weir at 863-7558 or Lana Stein, 721-7532, or send your money and the names of participants to Marj Weir at 6120 Westminster, 63112, or to any member of the committee.

Answers to questions above:

George Washington Carver, anode, luge, poker, Charleston

Operation BrightSide Blitz Day

This year, Blitz Day for our neighborhood is on Saturday, May 1. We are presently trying to recruit block captains for the following blocks:

5800 Washington

6100 Washington

6100 Waterman

If you are interested in being a block captain, please call 362-5122.

Operation BrightSide has woodchips and leaf mulch available for pick-up during Blitz Week, as well as marigolds and periwinkles for planting in public areas.

To celebrate Springtime in St. Louis, t-shirts are available for \$8.00 each. Proceeds will benefit Operation BrightSide. If you purchase your t-shirt through the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council, the Council will receive \$1 for every t-shirt sold. They will be on sale at the SDCC office, 6010 Kingsbury, on Blitz Day.

Operation BrightSide and Anheuser-Busch are offering CASH PRIZES to neighborhood organizations and groups for the best projects in these categories: Beautification, Clean-Up, and Deck the Dumpsters. Prizes range from \$25 to \$1,000! Your block

captains will be forwarding more information to you about these contests.

Other BrightSide projects of interest:

- Operation BrightSide is seeking volunteers to help plant petunias in the terracotta planters on Forest Park Parkway during late May. If you are interested, call Kim Prizer at 781-4556.

- On Saturday, April 17, from 1:00-3:00 p.m., "The Great American Clean-Up" will be held at the Forest Park Jewel Box. Volunteers are needed to "shine up" the Jewel Box and greenhouses in Forest Park.

- The Homeless Resource Bank, a program devoted to providing service to the Homeless and those at risk of becoming homeless is working with Operation BrightSide and Project Blitz this year. They are in great need of any household goods or reusable furniture. If you are planning to dispose of anything that might be of use to someone else in need on Blitz Day or any other time, call the Homeless Resource Bank at 241-8803 to arrange a pick-up of your items.

SDCC President Catherine Forslund Looks Ahead

by Lana Stein



photos by King Schoenfeld

Catherine Forslund is beginning her third year as president of the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council. She brings great optimism and energy to this role as she does to most things. I recently spoke with her regarding both her background and her hopes for this neighborhood.

Forslund did not grow up in a large central city. Rather, she spent her first 18 years in a quiet northwest Chicago suburb filled with trees. She attended the University of Illinois where she majored in history. After graduation in 1977, she moved to St. Louis. She liked the area immediately and especially the people. She also liked the climate, preferring our summer heat to Chicago's winters. St. Louis is also relatively close to her parents' home, making visits very feasible. Forslund noted that the area has sports, good restaurants, and many types of cultural activities that she says she does not take as much advantage of as perhaps she should.

Forslund came to the Skinker DeBaliviere neighborhood in 1982 after linking up with Roy Roncal. Roncal has lived here since he was 6 years old. Originally they lived on 61xx Pershing as renters. They bought their present home on 60xx Waterman in 1987. Forslund liked the neighborhood immediately. She found it quite eclectic. It was also only ten minutes away from anywhere.

After becoming homeowners, both husband and wife became more active in neighborhood organizations and events. Roncal is now president of the Rosedale Neighbors Association. Forslund, who was working as a paralegal and a framer, decided she

wanted a career involving writing. To escape from the miasma of legalese she worked with every day, she volunteered to write for the Times. Then editor Katie Kurtz asked her to cover the board meetings of the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council. She soon became a member of the board from Rosedale and assumed the position of secretary. She held this office for two years and then served a year as vice president. She also became chair of the Beautification Committee and continues to be part of this committee today. A couple of years ago she enlisted a number of us to inventory the trees in the neighborhood. She helped in planting bulbs in many public places. Last year, she worked very hard on the landscaping of Four Corners and will no doubt be out there planting again in April. Gardening in fact is one of her hobbies and her front lawn is always interestingly and unusually landscaped.

Forslund made a major career shift in the fall of 1990. She entered the doctoral program in history at Washington University. She has been a teaching or research assistant while taking classes. Her major emphasis is American foreign policy and she also has fields in nineteenth and twentieth century American and Latin American history. In January, she successfully passed her oral exams and now only her dissertation remains. Her committee nominated her for an Eisenhower dissertation fellowship that would permit her to pursue her research here, in Washington D.C., and perhaps in Taiwan. Her dissertation, entitled "Anna Chennault: China, Vietnam, and U.S. Foreign Policy, 1960-1985," combines her strong interest in foreign

continued on page 3

Editor's Notebook

by Lana Stein

St. Louis will soon have a new mayor and at this juncture it seems quite likely that, for the first time, an African American will occupy Room 200 at City Hall. A recent column by Gregory Freeman in the Post made clear that the expectations regarding the magnitude of change that this new mayor could bring should be tempered by cold hard reality.

Any person elected mayor in a large American city has to face certain facts. First, municipal revenue is not growing and cannot keep up with the costs of basic services, especially personnel. Second, the problems of a decaying infrastructure—roads, bridges, water lines—only increase with the passage of time. There are no contingency funds to cover long overdue repairs. In St. Louis, perhaps the most famous example is Forest Park. There, the sewers were installed about the time of the World's Fair and were meant to be temporary. A couple years ago, it was estimated that it would take \$46 million to restore the park, the lion's share going to sewers. If Forest Park comes to mind first, other major city parks also need road resurfacing or restructuring and other basic repairs. Finding revenues again will be a magical political feat.

A new mayor can reorder certain priorities but he or she must do so within the constraints of money and jurisdiction. Careful negotiation and coalition building may lead to progress in certain areas but it cannot spin straw into gold.

When cities were able to undertake massive development or to initiate a variety of social or neighborhood programming, they did so with federal dollars. This largesse dwindled considerably in the early 80s. For example, St. Louis's Community Development Block Grant was halved, not counting for inflation. It would be nice to be able to believe that a changed regime in Washington, D.C. would once again create urban programs funded with nonlocal dollars. In truth, we can expect more Block Grant funding and maybe a special stimulus package will address some infrastructure needs in the area. But, the halcyon days of the 60s and 70s are gone and they will not return. The enormity of the federal deficit precludes most new initiatives.

All this is not to minimize the symbolic or substantive effect of new direction. But, either hope or fear about changed leadership in the city must be tempered by the fact that economics governs politics. As long as local governments must raise their own revenue (unlike European cities which receive continuing subsidies from their national governments), those that have experienced job and population loss are at a disadvantage. If I had some form of second sight, perhaps I could lay out a solution to the central city dilemma. One of my graduate students a few years was very disappointed that I could not. He asked what the point was. The point is that victories on the local front are produced with great difficulty, with a lot of grit and a lot of ingenuity. Progress and change can take place but only within very real limitations.

Mardi Gras at St. Roch's School



Mr. Martin wins the bean bag toss booth at St. Roch Mardi Gras '93.



Contributors to The Times since October 1992

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Jim and Ann Ackerson | Hitch and Mary Powell |
| Anonymous | Roy Roncal and |
| Shirley Bissen and | Catherine Forslund |
| Peter Lukasiewicz | Rosedale Neighborhood |
| Janine D. Blair | Association |
| Dawn Blobaum and Jim Bartl | Sue and Sandy Rothschild |
| Blueberry Hill | Dan Shea and |
| Joe and Bette Botz | Kathleen Williams |
| Wilma Cantwell | Dave and Barbara Schmidt |
| Brian Clevinger | Mary and Peter Schmit |
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The TIMES of... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

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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 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.



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Rosedale Neighbors To Hold Potluck Supper and Elect Officers

On Wednesday, April 7, the Rosedale Neighborhood Association will meet at 6:30 p.m. at Crossroads School. All residents of Rosedale are invited to attend. Rosedale, a member unit of the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council, is bordered by Delmar on the north, Skinker on the west, Des Peres on the east, and the Forest Park Parkway on the south.

The meeting will begin with a potluck supper and socializing. Everyone who attends should bring a dish to pass. Neighbors can get acquainted or reacquainted while eating.

The program will begin at 7:30 p.m. A major portion of the program will be given over to the election of Rosedale officers and of some of the Rosedale representatives to the SDCC. As of this writing, the following people have expressed their candidacy for office:

- President - B. Roy Roncal
- Vice President - Marj Weir
- Treasurer - Claire Kerz
- Secretary - Paul Kurtz

Representatives to the SDCC:

- South Representative - Arline Webb
- Northwest Representative - Tricia Roland Hamilton
- Northeast Representative - Joe Miller
- Beth Bender
- Dexter Bordes

Nominations will be taken from the floor before the balloting.

Information will be provided about the Brightside Blitz scheduled for May 1 and block captains will be identified. The formal program will conclude with remarks by Captain David Heath, new commander of the 7th District. After his presentation, questions will be taken and neighbors will have more opportunity for socializing.

If you have questions about the potluck supper or the balloting for officers, call Roy at 725-7144 or Marj at 863-7558.

Art Festival Held at Crossroads School



Forslund continued

policy and her interest in the role of women in affairs of state. Forslund will pursue the impact of the woman who helped influence South Vietnam's President Thieu not to begin peace talks until after the November 1968 presidential election. Forslund expects that the dissertation will take two years to complete.

When not attending neighborhood meetings, Forslund and her husband enjoy Billiken games and jazz concerts. She is also active in a women's organization and both volunteer with the Arts Commandos on a regular basis.

Forslund has been president of the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council during exciting and hopeful times. She has worked to reenergize the committee structure and has achieved some success. She would like to see greater steps taken regarding recreation so that children have something to do, particularly on long summer days. She feels that Hamilton School might be

useful in this light and in fact would like it to be a truly neighborhood school again. Forslund has supported the work of the Commercial Committee and its attempts to revitalize Delmar. She would like our boundary streets to contain businesses that neighbors need and she wants all businesses to be good citizens in the neighborhood. She remains optimistic about the neighborhood's future and speaks strongly of its committed residents.

Last fall, she had the difficult task of finding a new director for the SDCC. Working with 8 others, she helped to select Kim Koenig. Although she wished Nancy Farmer every good fortune, it was hard to imagine 6010 Kingsbury without her. Luckily, "we were able to find Kim and she's doing so well." Forslund sees recreation as her first priority now with continued activity in housing and commercial development. She said that her greatest desire would be to have more neighbors involved with the Council and its various activities.

CALENDAR



NEIGHBORHOOD MEETINGS

- April 7**
Rosedale Neighborhood Assn. Potluck and Election Meeting at Crossroads School, 6:30pm.
- April 12**
SDCC Board Meeting at SDCC 7:30 p.m.
- April 14**
6000 Kingsbury at SDCC 7:00 p.m.
- April 17**
Trivia Contest Fundraiser for *The Times* at New City School, 7:30 p.m. Call Lana Stein at 721-7532 or Marj Weir 863-7558 for information or reservations.
- April 20**
Fundraising Committee at SDCC 6:30 p.m.

OTHER EVENTS OF INTEREST

- Now-June 1**
Blueberry Hill's 7th Annual St. Louis Music Contest for Songwriters, Musicians and Artists. Cash prizes! Entry forms available at Blueberry Hill, record and music stores, and recording studios.
- Now-Apr. 18**
"Visions of the People: A Pictorial History of Plains Indian Life" at the St. Louis Art Museum.
- Now-Apr. 25**
"Matisse: Image Into Sign" at the St. Louis Art Museum.
- Now-Nov. 1**
Special Exhibit at the Jefferson National Expansion Memorial, "The Oregon-California Emigrant Trail of 1843-1870."
- Apr. 1, 2, 3**
Crossroads School presents "Grease" at the New City School, Waterman and Lake, at 8pm. Tickets are \$4 in advance, \$5 at the door. There will also be a performance Apr. 4 at 7pm. Call 367-8085 for more information.
- Apr. 5-May 31**
"Impressions of St. Louis and National Park Sites," an exhibit of impressionist works by Max R. Scharf, at the Old Courthouse, 11 N. 4th St.
- Apr. 7**
Dennis Berri, former director of the Cincinnati Contemporary Arts Center will speak on "First Amendment and Artistic Expression" at Steinberg Hall, Washington University, Forsyth and Skinker. Berri was one of those indicted when the Mapplethorpe photographs were exhibited in Cincinnati.
- Apr. 9**
Special Solemn Liturgical Service and Communion at St. Roch, 7:30pm.
- Apr. 11**
Easter Services at St. Roch at 7am, 9am, 11am.
- Apr. 16-May 2**
Terrence McNally's "Lips Together, Teeth Apart," at The New Theatre at CASA, 560 Trinity in U City. Call 781-9314 for times and prices.
- May 7-May 30**
Orthwein Theatre Company presents "Lost Horizon." Call 995-7300 for times and prices.
- May 21-June 20**
Opera Theatre of St. Louis featuring Massenet's *Cinderella*, Mozart's *Don Giovanni*, Britten's *Billy Budd*, and a world premiere, Carlson's *The Midnight Angel*.



6504 Delmar

"Every now and then, we all need a place where we can go for a burger and a beer; where we can leave our everyday cares behind... If you want to do it right, there is only one place to go: Blueberry Hill."

- Allan Cohen, KMOV-TV

Katie Kurtz and her *Times* Chili Contest-Winning Recipe in the Category "Most-Like-Mom-Used-To-Make"

The following chili recipe was discovered many years ago in the Food Section of the old Globe-Democrat. It has served me well, making its appearance at Times fundraisers in years past, post-season Beagles' softball team parties, and annual New Year's recovery parties which were a pre-child fixture of our entertaining schedule. However, for it to have won the award for the Most-Like-Mom-Used-to-Make is something of a joke. My mother never thought of making chili (although she did have some specialties). But, no doubt if she had made chili, it might have been one like this—primarily because it is easy.

Katie Kurtz's New Year's Chili

(serves 6-8)

- 1 pound ground chuck
- 1 onion, chopped
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 cans (15 oz.) kidney beans
- 2 cans (8 oz.) tomato sauce
- 2 sauce cans water

1/4 cup Spice Islands chili seasoning (I have used both the chili con carne seasoning and the chili powder, they are different but either is acceptable)

1 or 2 T. red pepper flakes (this depends on your audience; with kids I don't even add any)

Cook beef in a Dutch oven until almost browned. I now drain off the fat but in the good old unenlightened days, I didn't. Then add onion and cook until tender. Add garlic, undrained kidney beans, tomato sauce, water, chili seasoning and pepper flakes. Cover and simmer 45 minutes or longer. I think that any food that has tomatoes in it does better if it sits, so I usually cook this a day before, let any more fat rise to the surface when it is cold, scrape it off, and reheat. Even making it the morning of the same day helps to deepen the flavors.

Serve with chopped red onion, shredded sharp cheddar cheese, and sour cream on the side. I usually keep a bottle of Tabasco handy because I like chili hot.

I have found that the lower fat cheeses are o.k.; somehow they don't melt quite the same way as the more "traditional" higher fat ones. The "light"

sour creams are just as tasty as their fattier relations. However, I have recently discovered a very low fat sour cream substitute that I will pass along. It is from Jane Brody's Good Food Book and she calls it cottage cream. It works very well as the basis for dips, on chili, curries, and soups. It is not as runny or as sharp as plain yogurt which a lot of people use as a healthy substitute for sour cream.

Cottage Cream

(makes about 1 and 1/4 cups)

3 T. milk or buttermilk (I have always used buttermilk)

1 T. lemon juice

1 cup low-fat cottage cheese (this is a great way to use up cottage cheese that isn't as fresh as it used to be but is still o.k.)

In a blender, combine the milk and lemon juice. With the blender on low speed, gradually add the cottage cheese. Increase the speed to high, and blend the mixture for about 2 minutes.

Transfer the cream to a jar, cover it, and refrigerate it. If the cream becomes too thick, thin it by stirring in a little milk or buttermilk.

I have not cooked with this substitution so I cannot guarantee what might happen if you use it to make Beef Stroganoff or something really tasty and sinful.

Alas, it would be nice to think that chili season is behind us, but as I write this, it seems that soup and chili weather is still with us.

Computer Program at St. Roch's Pre-School



The "Computertot Program" is in full swing at St. Roch's Pre-School. This optional program began in January and is a huge success. Anita Arthur teaches the program to the children. A different theme is introduced each month that correlates with the curriculum such as shapes, colors, letters, or numbers. The children are discovering the magic of touch screen technology.

Visitors are encouraged to stop by any Wednesday morning and observe the St. Roch's children enjoying their computer program. For more information, call Wilma Cantwell, Director of the St. Roch Pre-School, at 726-2830.

From the Office of the State Senator

William L. Clay, Jr.

The State Senate has approved Senate Bill 164. It is a comprehensive anti-crime bill and will make several changes to Missouri's criminal laws, including those affecting drug offenses, juvenile courts and street gangs. The bill also would establish an innovative drug treatment program for first-time drug offenders and those already in prison. State Senator Clay offered an amendment to this bill which the Senate adopted. The amendment makes use of a minor in unlawful activities involving controlled substances a Class A felony.

The Senate also passed bills that would increase the salaries of police officers in St. Louis and Kansas City.

The Joint Education Finance Task Force, made up of Senate and House members, released a new foundation formula that would change the way local schools are funded. The revisions of the formula have been introduced to the Senate as Senate Bill 380.

The Senate also is considering SB 251 which makes comprehensive changes to the worker's compensation insurance system.

For further information about these bills or other pending legislation, constituents can contact State Senator Clay at Room 429, State Capitol, Jefferson City MO 65101 or call 1-751-2229.

News from Cub Pack 31

Cub Scout Pack 31, along with their guests, Cub Scout Pack 53 of New City School, held its annual Blue and Gold Banquet, which is a yearly celebration of the birthday of Boy Scouting--83 years old this year. The banquet, originally scheduled for scout month in February, had to be postponed because of the snowstorm that occurred on our original date of February 25. This year it was held on March 11, 1993, at Grace Fellowship Hall.

The Blue and Gold Banquet celebrates also the founding of Cub Scouting in 1930. Pack 31 annually has a potluck dinner contributed by the Scouts and their parents. Over 120 Scouts, leaders, siblings of Scouts and the parents assembled to see skits, receive awards and have good fellowship. Awards were presented to the Cub Scouts and the packs received awards for their pack flags.

Pack 31 and Pack 53 earned the Good Turn Award from Keystone

District for collecting, along with Boy Scout Troop 98, 167 boxes of canned goods last November in the "Scouting for Food" campaign. All this food was turned over to the St. Louis Area Food Bank for distribution to area food pantries to help feed the needy in our area.

Pack 31 recognized the custodians at Grace Church. Joe Williams and Carl Cooper do so much to help at the monthly pack meetings and at other events the pack holds. The pack recognized Rose Flynn, a mother of one of our scouts, who did all the decorations for the banquet this year. The pack specifically recognized the untiring devotion to Pack 31 by Margaret Droege of the 62XX block of McPherson who has served the pack in so many ways. She has been a member of the committee, the chairman of the committee, a Webelos leader and has also been the chairman of the Annual Blue and Gold Banquet for five years.

Cub Scout Pack 31 is open to all boys who will be in 2nd, 3rd, 4th or 5th grade next school year. The members of Pack 31 come from many different schools and areas. Recruitment night is March 25, at 7:00 p.m. at Grace Fellowship Hall at 6199 Waterman. All boys must be accompanied by an adult guardian/parent. Pack 31 seeks and needs parents to serve as leaders for our next pack year.

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Meet Neighbor David Schmidt

By Mary Ann Shickman (with King Schoenfeld)

In writing about David Schmidt, I am reminded of the plot of the well-worn and much loved film, "It's a Wonderful Life." In this film the hero discovers what life in his town would have been like if he had never lived. Well, life in Skinker-DeBaliviere would have been much duller and poorer if it had not been for David Schmidt's involvement in so many aspects of our neighborhood.

Take the potatoes and cabbages. For years they ran out during the St. Roch St. Patrick's Dinner. In 1969 David organized the kitchen help, counted the potatoes and cabbages, then arranged them by size, so that there was enough to go around.

You want serious? There was the time David and two other neighbors spotted a thief who had robbed a 77 year old woman of her purse. One summoned the police while the other two headed off the perpetrator where the alley meets Skinker. That was 1977 and David was named citizen of the month.

Although by day David is a tax collector based at City Hall, he has gotten involved in dozens of programs in his spare time—Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts (even leading a troop in a challenging visit to Philmont, New Mexico). David has served as treasurer for Rosedale Neighbors Pre-school Board and of the 28th Ward Regular Democrats, served the Liturgy chair at St. Roch, and was involved with the Tot Lot at Pershing and Des Peres which some of you may recall.

You want "human" interest? Since St. Roch is the Patron Saint of Dogs

(check the bas relief above the school door), David instigated the blessing of dogs at the church. On the Feast of St. Roch Msgr. Peet blessed the parish dogs brought to the church.

My recollections of David's activities include his work, along with Lois Schoemehl and Cal Stuart, to organize support for the Kiosk. That tiny red library was plopped down in May of 1983, just ten years ago, at Kingsbury and Des Peres, where is served the neighborhood for almost all of those ten years.

David Schmidt, along with a host of others, was in line at the Kiosk's grand opening. For years he came to the Kiosk's Christmas party dressed as Santa, full of wonderful Ho, Ho's. A caring person, he always remembered to invite this writer to Thanksgiving dinner and other family festivities.

Yes, his family! Of course, there is Barbara, who is head of the English Department at Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville. As Providence would have it, years ago it was she who served Kool-Aid to your graduate student David, while he was busy cleaning a 17th Ward alley as a John XXIII Sodality activity. She was a young coed. Within a short time they married. They now live in the 6100 block of McPherson. Their son Carl and daughter Roell are away at college.

David has a serious heart condition and, perhaps somewhere down the line he may need a heart transplant. We wish David luck and give him our prayers and many thanks for all he has contributed to the neighborhood.



Pet Talk

by Stephen A. Brammeier, D.V.M.

As the temperatures warm, the annual flea season begins in earnest. Complete flea control can be difficult and frustrating. It is helpful to understand the life cycle of the flea and the effects of flea infestation to maintain adequate flea control.

Fleas spend 80% of their time OFF your animals. Most of the eggs, larvae, pupa, and adults will be found in your pet's favorite resting places. Common sites include chairs, beds (both on and under), rugs, under porches, next to garages, and in cool places in basements. Because cats and dogs have higher body temperatures than humans, the fleas generally prefer the animals. However, fleas will "catch rides" on your clothing and be transported into areas of the house where the animals are not given access. Although not the rule, when people are bitten by fleas, the resulting reaction is quite pruritic (itchy) and the bite often becomes infected. Flea bites also can transmit diseases such as Bubonic plague which is still a problem in the southeastern U.S.

Some animals are allergic to fleas. The results produced by the bites of one flea can be very severe. Sometimes it is difficult to understand that the loss of hair, scabs, thickened skin, and offensive odor produced by flea bite dermatitis can be caused by just a few fleas. Other animals, less sensitive, can carry around hundreds of fleas, and rarely seem bothered.

Complete flea control must be aimed at getting rid of the fleas on the animal and controlling the flea population in the animal's immediate environment. A flea bath with a good flea shampoo will effectively rid an animal of fleas. It is sometimes necessary to bathe an animal as often as once a week during the height of the flea season. A flea dip will also kill fleas but is not recommended for cats. Following a bath, these measures can be used to continue to repel fleas: spraying lightly 3 to 7 times weekly, powdering lightly 2 to 3 times weekly.

Indoor flea control measures begin with thorough vacuuming, especially sleeping areas. Thorough cleaning under furniture also is necessary. Be sure to discard the vacuum bag after vacuuming. In addition, it helps to launder or dispose of any bedding used by the pet. For the best results, guaranteed flea control by a professional exterminator is advised. After chemical treatment, regular vacuuming and laundering of bedding is recommended.

If your pet spends most of its outdoor time in your own yard, flea control measures are needed here as well. Limiting access under porches and cutting down tall weeds or grass will be helpful. Regular spraying by a professional exterminator may be beneficial too. Although the height of the flea season is August through November, early spraying of your yard may keep the flea population from reaching large numbers.

Successful flea control is best accomplished before you notice a flea problem. Early yard spraying, routine laundering of bedding, regular vacuuming, and occasional flea baths should reduce the chances of a major infestation. Should fleas become a problem, combined effort on the part of the pet owner, veterinarian, and exterminator is often effective at flea control.

People have asked occasionally about using garlic and brewer's yeast as natural flea repellents. I have had mixed reports from those who have added these substances to their dog's diet. The following is a dosage recommended by Dr. Fox: For every 30 pounds of dog, give 1 large chopped garlic clove, 1 teaspoon of brewer's yeast and 1/2 teaspoon of powdered seaweed (kelp) daily.

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Skinker Debaliviere Community Council

BOARD MEETING

March 8, 1993

Attending the meeting were: Directors C. Forslund, L. Stein, N. Vatcha, R. Johnson, G. Hayes, J. Wright, G. Fox, S. Johnson, S. Polk, A. Smith Carr, A. Webb, R. Roncal, K. Keaveny, Alderman Dan McGuire, Executive Director K. Koenig and ConServ Officer J. Waits.

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

Karen Keaveny was introduced as Parkview second representative.

New Business

New Cote Brillante - M. Merritt requested that New Cote Brillante be adopted as an institutional member of our Council. S. Polk moved "To approve a resolution to adopt New Cote Brillante as an institutional member," seconded by J. Wright and approved unanimously.

Nomination and Election of Officers - C. Forslund presented the proposed slate of officers. Nominations from the floor were requested. The slate was then voted on, and the following will hold officers for one year:

C. Forslund - President
G. Hayes - Vice President
N. Vatcha - Treasurer
R. Johnson - Secretary

Final Decision on Walgreens - Alderman D. McGuire updated Board on status of Walgreen's since our last Board meeting on 1/26/93. Walgreen's has reapplied for a conditional use permit for a single-story structure on the same piece of land as proposed initially. 5700 DeGiverville made no official report to the Board on their opinion in this matter. L. Stein reported that she spoke to 2 residents of 5700 DeGiverville who support the development of Walgreen's with the enforced conditions included in the resolution. G. Fox reported that she had spoken to 2 other residents who oppose Walgreen's due to the heavy traffic it might produce.

This issue is before the Board again because of strong opposition by 5700 DeGiverville. However, to date we have heard no official response from these residents. The Board received correspondence from J. Vatcha, on behalf of the Commercial Planning Committee, who urged support of Walgreens, N. Farmer who urged opposition to Walgreens, and the Housing Corporation who also opposed Walgreen's. A. Smith Carr made amendments to the resolution which

were suggested by the Board. This amended resolution charges Walgreen's with creating an enforceable agreement by the date of their conditional hearing on 3/24/93. If the agreement is not produced by this time, the Council will oppose their application. A. Webb moved "To adopt the following resolution as amended", seconded by G. Hayes and approved with one abstention. K. Koenig will phone Board members with a periodic update on this issue.

G. Fox moved "That the minutes of the January Board meeting be approved as read with amendments", seconded by N. Vatcha and approved.

G. Fox moved "That the treasurer's reports for January and February be accepted as read", seconded by A. Webb and approved. C. Forslund called attention to the prouddet shortfall.

DeGiverville No report.

Housing Corporation J. Waits and K. Koenig reported that development at 6025 Westminster should begin in April.

Kingsbury Square No report.

Nina Place L. Stein reported that development is not continuing.

Parkview K. Keaveny reported that the Board has agreed to give SDCC \$500 for the year. She also reported that Neighborhood Watch is in full operation.

Rosedale A PotLuck dinner is scheduled for April 7, 1993 at 6:30 p.m. at Crossroads School. An election of new members and officers will also be held at this time.

Social Service K. Koenig reported that this committee will meet on 3/16/93 at 6:30 p.m. Hopefully, a new chairperson will be selected at that time.

Commercial Planning A party was held on 3/5/93 at the Wabash Triangle Cafe to celebrate the banners going up on Delmar (from City limits to DeBaliviere). K. Koenig reported that the 1993 S.W. Bell Neighborhood Growth Grant was just completed. If an award is granted, the money will go to a security program for the area businesses and improved lighting along DesPeres.

Beautification K. Koenig reported that Blitz Day is Saturday, May 1st. The committee will enter Four Corners as a project for beautification.

Director's Report

Union Electric Substation - K. Koenig reported that the committee assigned to examining this issue gave

approval to a brick crete structure. Construction will begin in April.

Fundraising Committee - The creation of a Fundraising Committee was suggested to K. Koenig. We especially need to address our projected 1993 budget shortfall. Volunteers for a fundraising committee include: L. Stein, C. Forslund, S. Polk, A. Webb, and J. Wright. We need to recruit additional volunteers outside the Council.

Library Lot - K. Koenig reported that the lot on DesPeres that formerly housed the Kingsbury Kiosk is for sale. The Public Library currently owns this lot. K. Koenig will compose write a letter to Dr. Glen Holt of the Public Library identifying the Council's concern about any commercial development on this lot, should it be sold, and also requesting that the lot be donated to City Parks Department to add to the "greening of DesPeres".

Letterhead Proposal - K. Koenig drafted two proposals for new letterhead and asked the Board for feedback. It was decided that the logo would remain in the upper left corner with the new letterhead design also being incorporated.

Various Council Funds - K. Koenig reported that there are two funds which were established in people's names a number of years ago that have had no activity. The Kimbrough Fund was established in the early 80's and has accumulated almost \$2,100.00. J. Wright will have M. Kimbrough contact K. Koenig to determine the dispensation of the fund. The Loretta Reinhardt Fund was established as a crime prevention fund, and K. Koenig will investigate with Nancy Farmer as to what specially should be done with this money.

Smoking/ Non Smoking Office Policy - Discussion was held on what kind of policy the Board feels comfortable with establishing. S. Johnson informed the Board that this office is considered a public space, and therefore subject to public smoking laws that may designate a 1/3 of the area for smoking. After much discussion it was decided that there would be no smoking permitted in the office, only in the back room.

The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 12, 1993 at 7:30 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

SDCC Committee Openings

by Kim Koenig

Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council has several active committees that are looking for new members. If anyone is interested in joining these committees, please call 862-5122 for more information.

Beautification - This committee's main tasks revolve around planning for Operation Brightside's Blitz Day. This group recruits volunteers for clean-up and beautification efforts to create and maintain a clean, neat and attractive public and private environment in the neighborhood. This committee is presently chaired by Debbie Twelman.

Recreation - This committee's charge is to create and maintain quality recreation programs and facilitates for all residents. We are looking for someone to chair this committee.

Social Service - This is a newly activated committee chaired by Beth Bender. Presently, this group is in the initial stages of planning for addressing our neighborhood's social service needs.

Commercial Planning - This committee is chaired by JoAnn Vatcha and is currently reviewing our redevelopment plan. This committee designates areas where grant funds and/or commercial theme district monies will be spent. This group is charged with improving and stabilizing the business district.

Recycling - This committee is currently chaired by Andy Cross. They are primarily concerned with educating residents on issues like recycling or composting.

Fundraising - This is a newly formed committee and is in need of a chair. This group's main responsibilities will be to brainstorm and organize various fundraising events to generate revenue to support the Council and its programs.

Historic District Review - This committee is presently looking for a chair. This group primarily is interested in seeing that any facade improvements to properties or exteriors of buildings meet neighborhood historic district standards.

Summer Program in Ki Aikido for Children 8-12

The St. Louis Ki Society is sponsoring a summer program for children between the ages of 8-12. This program is free, and will train children in Ki Aikido (Japanese martial arts). Because space is limited, call the Ki Society at 726-5070 if you are interested in enrolling your child in this program or if you are an adult and interested in volunteering your time to assist with supervision.

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On March 5, The Delmar Commercial Committee and friends met at Wabash Triangle Cafe to celebrate the placement of banners on Delmar. SDCC President Catherine Forslund presents the proze to banner designer Denise Boone as Treasurer Neville Vatcha, then-Vice-President Lana Stein, and Secretary Ruth Johnson look on.

photos by King Schoenfeld



Delmar Commercial Committee Chair JoAnn Vatcha, Alderman Dan McGuire, designer Denise Boone, and SDCC Executive Director Kimberly Koenig.

Vicissitudes

by Marj Weir



photo by Rose Storey

The news is upbeat this month. We are happy to report that Laura (Green) and Larry Shelburg have added Brandon K. to their family. Brandon was born on March 11, 1993, at 6 lbs. 6 oz. His proud grandparents are Lu and Sam K. Green. Brandon's middle initial is in honor of Sam.

Chanaya Vatcha, elder daughter of Neville and JoAnn Vatcha is engaged to Mark Jacobs of Florissant. They met at a graduation party at UMSL where he had just earned his M.B.A. and she her B.A. Chanaya is a teaching assistant in the Francis Howell School District and

Mark works for McDonnell Douglas. They are planning a Fall wedding.

Jennie Fox is returning to the neighborhood this month after a sojourn in Europe.

Alderman Dan McGuire served as the Grand Marshal of the Dogtown St. Patrick's Day Parade this year. A well-deserved honor for the esteemed Irishman.

As I complete this abbreviated column, I realize that with this issue of *The Times* we begin our 24th year.

Let us hear from YOU! 863-7558.

New City School Launches Capital Campaign

On March 11, 1993, the New City School community gathered for The Urban Campus Capital Campaign Kick-Off party. The ambitious goal of 1.5 million dollars was announced. Campaign chairperson Sue Schlichter then told those assembled that \$868,000 had been raised to date. The campaign cabinet will continue to request funds from parents, grandparents, staff neighbors and friends as the fund raising continues through June 1993.

The plans for the nearly three acres surrounding New City School were revealed in detail. A track and soccer field will be completed early this summer, and the current playground will be developed over the summer months in order that the entire extended campus will be completed by the first day of the 1993-1994 school year.

In addition to the track and soccer field, the new campus will include an outdoor amphitheater, science experiments, a pavilion for outdoor classrooms, and an area dedicated to the growing of a variety of plants.

The new Urban Campus will be open to the community after school hours, and Chairperson Schlichter stated, "This campaign offers us a wonderful opportunity to create a remarkable contribution to our children and to our community." In addition to the outdoor development, the historic New City School building will be central air-conditioned, and the theater will be renovated.

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In Your Ear

by Tom Hawkeye Hoerr

It was a lazy spring morning. The sun was just beginning to make its presence known as it peered over the horizon, a few birds were chirping, and the smell of last night's rain was still in the air. He eased himself into the chair on his porch, making the appropriate groans and sighs as his body lodged in the cushion. Slowly he lifted the mug of coffee to his lips. But he didn't drink yet; he held it in front of his face, watching the vapor rise and smelling the aroma. Why did coffee always smell better than it tasted, he wondered.

This was his time, as he called it. No phone calls, no interruptions, best of all, no decisions. He wasn't getting any younger, life was taking its toll, and he appreciated the rare times in his day when stress was a stranger.

He began scanning the newspaper, not really reading to appreciate or understand, but monitoring to see if there was anything that needed his attention. Front page: another murder, probably drug related, some speculation about terrorism; infrastructure problems, streets deteriorating and sewers collapsing. Nothing worthy of pursuing yet, he thought. He turned to the sports page and it was much the same: salary arbitration, some wins and losses, and trade rumors. He allowed himself a small chuckle, thinking back to decades ago when he had lived and died with the numbers in this section. It had all seemed so important.

He took a deep drink of the coffee, pausing to savor it, and turned to the editorial page. This section never took long at all; he had his own opinions, why read other people's thoughts? Then he turned to the obituary page. Usually he skipped this portion of the paper. If there was a tragedy, someone would call him. But as he glanced over the list of names, one jumped out at him. In bold letters, it said, **Carmody, William A.** That was his name!

He pulled the paper closer and read carefully. Not only was the name his, so was the date of birth, February 25, 1948! This was getting stranger all the time, he thought. He read the details. Apparently this other Bill Carmody had few descendants, just some nieces and nephews. The body was being held at the funeral home only one night, the notice said. In lieu of sending flowers, donations could be made to the American Heart Association.

Some minutes passed. He sat motionless, staring into the distance. The cough of a car starting in the distance broke his reverie, and he shook his head. For some strange reason, he could feel himself breathing heavier and perspiring. He felt a cold, odd sweat on his forehead and arms.

Without a doubt, he knew, he had decided. There was no question, he was going to go the funeral home. There probably wouldn't be many people there, he could come and go very quickly, he wouldn't even have to sign the register. He wrote down the address of the funeral home on a piece of paper, it was way across town, finished his coffee and went inside to dress for work.

The day at the office was uneventful, and it was just as well. Try as he might, and he did try, he couldn't put this coincidence out of his mind. Bill Carmody wasn't a common name; he'd never met another. Having the same middle initial was even

more uncanny. And then to have the same date of birth! Well, this was just too much to absorb at once. And why hadn't he ever heard of this person? He was the only William A. Carmody in the phone book. He'd never met anyone who confused him with this other person or even asked him if he knew someone else with the same name. He felt himself feeling a bit indignant that this other person took his name. But then he stopped, realizing that the other William A. Carmody was dead. And he felt a little guilty.

He had planned to come home from work, have dinner, and go to the funeral home afterwards. But as he drove along the highway from work, he found himself thinking of the best route to pick to go there now. More and more, he felt, he didn't want to wait. He'd eat afterwards; curiosity had the best of him now. Did the other William A. Carmody look like him? They were the same age, after all, but that didn't mean much, he thought. But what if they did look alike? What would that mean?

Being adopted had never bothered him. He considered himself lucky that his parents were so kind and generous. And even though he was adopted, the people who raised him truly were his parents, he felt. The mom and dad who gave him up at birth, well, he had their chromosomes and genes, but his real parents were the ones who had taken care of him when he was sick, helped him with his homework, and given him love until their death. He missed them. What, he wondered, would his mom make of this? Knowing her, she'd be riding with him now, equally anxious to see the other Bill.

And then it dawned on him. Could he have had a brother, could he have been a twin? His mom, his real mom, no, the mom who raised him, had never mentioned this, but would she have known? He consciously had not sought his "birth-parents," that was the politically correct phrase now, and hadn't really been curious at all about the circumstances of his conception, birth, and background. But now he began to wonder. His tires screeched as he hit the brakes. That was close! He had almost smacked into the car stopped ahead of him. He had been driving like this for miles, he realized, preoccupied and thinking, wondering, speculating about the past and not paying attention to the road. He was lucky that he hadn't had an accident, he thought, he certainly hadn't been thinking about what he was doing. Why, he wondered, did this bother him so? What was he worried about?

Then he saw it, a small sign on a bland brick building: "Tucker Mortuary." He pulled into an almost empty parking lot. He turned off the ignition and waited. Now that he was here, he really didn't want to go inside.

This is crazy, he said aloud, damn crazy. Coming here was a waste of time! And with that he jammed the key back into the ignition and started the car. And then he turned the motor off and took a deep breath. He could feel himself sweating again, that same cold prickly sweat he had felt when he first read the obituary. He'd come all this way, he thought, and he knew he'd never forgive himself if he didn't go inside and see this other William A. Carmody.

He walked briskly from the car to the building. But as he placed his hand on the door to the building, a heavy gold-plated door with cherubs and angels formed in the metal, he froze. It was as if something was holding him, refusing to let him pull the door open. He closed his eyes and tried to bring order back into his world. He could feel his heart beating faster.

"Excuse me, excuse me," the voice said from nearby. He opened his eyes and shook his head, as if awakening from a sleep. There was an elderly lady standing behind him, trying to get into the mortuary. And he was blocking the way. "Excuse me, I want to get inside," she said. He muttered an apology, stepped back and opened the gold door for her. She smiled and walked inside. He followed her.

The building was deathly quiet. Then he smiled at his pun. That's more like it, he thought. He'd be embarrassed if anyone knew how this thing was unnerving him. Deathly quiet, indeed.

There was a sign in the lobby that noted where people were laid out. William A. Carmody was the only name on it; his body was in Suite C. Bill walked down the hall towards the door with the gold letter "C" above it. His breath was becoming strained now. He could feel himself heaving, almost gasping. He noticed that he was breathing through his mouth. His throat was dry and he had difficulty swallowing. And then he was at the door to the parlor.

The room seemed bare. There were a dozen or so chairs, but no one was sitting in any of them. There were no plants, just a casket, a blue metal casket, sitting at the other side of the room. The casket was open, and standing next to it was the lady who had passed him coming in the building.

She was looking into the casket and sobbing gently.

He could feel his heart thundering inside his chest. He walked slowly towards the casket, stepping carefully. After a few steps, he stopped next to a chair and leaned on it for a moment, resting. He felt nauseated and his head was pounding. But he had to go on.

Finally he drew himself up against the casket. He placed his hands on one of its handles, bracing himself. His eyes were closed but he knew the lady was still there, standing next to him, because he could hear her sobs. He turned his face to the casket, but with his eyes closed. For what seemed like an eternity, he stood there, facing the body, but not seeing it. His grip on the casket grew tighter and tighter. And then he slowly opened his eyes.

Thank God. The person inside the casket didn't look like him at all! The other William A. Carmody was much heavier, with a different color hair and different facial features. There was absolutely no resemblance. The William A. Carmody in the casket was even dressed in clothing that Bill would never wear. He allowed himself a smile and tilted his head back a bit. He didn't know what he was expecting, but he felt a great sense of relief. Somehow, Bill admitted, he had feared seeing his double, his twin, in the casket. And then what would he have done? But it was obvious that there was no way that he had anything in common with the other William Carmody, besides his name and birthdate.

He turned to the lady standing by him. By now she was looking at him inquisitively. He smiled at her and said he was sorry, and turned to leave. He felt as if the weight of the world was off of his shoulders. He didn't know why this coincidence has bothered him so, but clearly it had. But that was then, he thought, and this is now. Now it was time to head for home and have dinner.

He took a step towards the door and it started. He felt a huge striking pain, starting in his chest and exploding down his left arm. He tried to scream, to yell for help, but he could not. The pain grew more intense, shooting throughout his body, and he fell to the ground. He wanted to cry, to ask what was happening, to grab his chest to get the hurt to stop, but he could not. And then the pain stopped, and along with it, his heart stopped too. Forever. Like the other William A. Carmody, this William A. Carmody would never feel any pain again.

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