

The *TIMES* of... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

Vol 24 No 5

October 1993

FREE

The oldest neighborhood newspaper in St. Louis

Bingo to Fund Neighborhood Improvements

by Kim Koenig

Starting on October 3, Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council will be sponsoring bingo on Sunday nights from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Salad Bowl (3949 Lindell Boulevard). This has the potential to bring a lot of money into our neighborhood - but it will only happen with volunteers! Revenue generated will go towards projects such as street beautification, youth programs, etc. As an incentive for block units and other neighborhood groups to agree to staff a number of bingo nights, a percentage of the profit from each night staffed will go to that particular group.

If you want additional information about bingo or wish to volunteer to work bingo, contact your block captain or SDCC at 862-5122. We need everyone's help in order to make bingo success, players and volunteers!

Bring coupon on page 7 to bingo and receive a discount.

SDCC Honors Central West End Bank at Oct. 22 Cruise

by Lana Stein

At its flood-postponed but much anticipated Friday, October 22, the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council is honoring Central West End Bank for its many contributions to the neighborhood. The Bank sprang from the neighborhood and has applied its assets here to assist in the revitalization of housing and commercial activity.

The Bank is now a neighborhood fixture at the corner of Waterman and DeBaliviere. Its home is the rehabbed Dorr and Zeller building which once housed a catering business and ice cream parlor and a chocolate shop. Originally, the bank occupied only the west half of the building. An art gallery occupied the area now containing offices. In fact, the bank still exhibits some modern art.

The bank was founded in 1979 by a group of people who lived and worked in the area. They shared a

Darlene Green, City's New Budget Director, Lives in Skinker DeBaliviere

by Lana Stein

On September 20, Darlene Green became the budget director of the City of St. Louis. She has been a resident of Skinker DeBaliviere since 1989 when she purchased a home on 59xx DeGiverville. She is very proud of her block and happy that she was able to find a home there. There is a strong block unit and she has worked with them on many activities. Currently, she's looking forward to the annual Christmas party.

Green is a native St. Louisian. She first lived in Pruitt-Igoe and then with her family moved to the 3rd ward on the north side. She graduated from Vashon High School. Green attended Washington University where she received a bachelor's degree in Business Administration. While a student, she lived on 56xx Waterman and also got to know our neighborhood. After graduation, she lived in Columbia for five years and worked for the state of Missouri and the University of Missouri.

On returning to St. Louis, Green became an accountant in the Clerk of the Circuit Court's office. Within 3 months, she was promoted to Finance Manager and served in this position for almost 7 years until being named Budget Director.



photo by King Schoenfeld

As the Budget Director, Green reports to the Board of Estimate and Apportionment and is responsible for preparing the city's operating budget each year. The budget is then submitted to the Board of Estimate and Apportionment and the Board of Aldermen by the dates mandated by law. She has a staff of seven. Throughout the year, they work on several projects analyzing anticipated revenues and expenditures.

Green remarked that the passage of sale taxes I and S in August will help the city a great deal. Service levels will be maintained to benefit citizens. And, it will be possible to make certain improvements that previously could not be considered. These improvements will be designed to stabilize St. Louis's neighborhoods. Green is very excited about being able to help develop these new programs. Her major goal is to see that revenue is used for neighborhood stabilization; to uplift the down-sides of certain neighborhoods and to continue to serve the high quality neighborhoods. She really wants to see neighborhoods that are down come back up.

Green has worked for Mayor Bosley since 1986 and strongly supported his bid to become mayor. Throughout the campaign, she always felt that he would win. She never prepared for how she would act if he lost. She said that he has always been genuine and supportive of her. He could see her good points even if she couldn't and "helped enable me to continue with my career."

Green was attracted to the Skinker DeBaliviere neighborhood when she was at school at Washington University. She prizes its close proximity to downtown, Clayton, and everywhere north and south. She finds Skinker DeBaliviere to be very diverse, stable, and both conservative and liberal. She likes seeing the students, the elderly, black and white. She particularly likes the older people who kind of watch and see things like her grandmother did when she was a child. There is a good mix and she loves her block and the neighborhood.

Her favorite recreation is walking in Forest Park where she does 3 miles at a stretch. She is very thankful for a loving supportive family and some wonderful friends.

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Editor's Notebook

by Lana Stein

The grass is not necessarily greener in other cities. I have a tendency to remind my class of that when youthful critics wax on about the shortcomings of the St. Louis area. As an antidote, I generally assign books about my hometown, Detroit. But, sometimes even I forget. A visit this summer perhaps showed me more about St. Louis than the Motor City. I must first explain that there was a significant highlight to the trip, an afternoon at Tiger Stadium. The Tigers are my hometown team and I've never given up that allegiance, in good years or bad. And, I love the old ballpark with its real grass and its closeness to the field. When I hear talk of tearing down this venerable park, I cringe. It was a beautiful day for a game, sunny, 75 degrees, and Cecil Fielder hit two home runs. Nirvana in August.

When not at the stadium, the sadness that is Detroit became very clear. It all looked so tired, the neighborhoods, the parks. Saddest of all were the main streets. There was nothing of the commerce I remembered: no chain supermarkets, no major drug stores, no clothing outlets. Actually there was little of anything. Detroit was a single industry town and that industry declined significantly. Over 46% of Detroit's children live in poverty. The city's revenues have declined along with its population and work force. There has been some building along the river but otherwise the neighborhoods have not received any funding.

I cannot find the words to adequately describe the decay of one of nation's largest cities. But, I can say that St. Louis has more going for it in its neighborhoods, its commercial areas, its downtown—with the exception of course of artificial turf. In Detroit, you can't find a sidewalk cafe, you can't find a Thai restaurant, you can't find the music spots of Souldard. Detroit is the spectre of what could be. Despite its problems and they are significant, St. Louis is not close to that spectre. St. Louis's hometown critics should take a trip to what used to be a booming community of 1,800,000 souls. It would give anyone pause. Needless to say, there is no Skinker DeBaliviere there. In truth, there are almost no neighborhoods as diverse and as stable as ours in this country. And so I'm glad to live here and will continue to catch the Tigers on ESPN. With a little pitching, next year is their year.



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 phone or mailed to 6008 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 6008 Kingsbury, 63112. Deadline: 15th of the month or call 721-7532.

"St. Louis in the Gilded Age" Exhibit to Debut at History Museum

Largest Exhibit in its 127-Year History



Mercantile lamp. Mass-produced ornate gas lamps with classical figures, such as this one from the St. Louis Merchants' Exchange Trading Room, added to the grandeur of Gilded Age centers of capitalist power, and the Merchants' Exchange Headquarters of Board of Trade, where commodities were wire traded and business was transacted.



CALENDAR



Neighborhood Meetings:

- 10/10 Nina Place Condominiums Annual Meeting and Election of Officers, 6008 Kingsbury, 1:00pm.
- 10/11 Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council Board Meeting, 6008 Kingsbury, 7:30pm. All neighborhood residents welcome.
- 10/12 West End Arts Council, 6008 Kingsbury, 6:30pm.
- 10/18 Apartment Owners Association, time and location to be announced. Call 862-5122 for information.
- 10/19 6000/6100 Pershing and Waterman block unit at 6008 Kingsbury. Call 862-5122 for time and information.
- 10/22 SDCC RIVERBOAT CRUISE on the Tom Sawyer, 7:30pm. Call 862-5122 for tickets.
- 10/28 28th Ward Regular Democratic Club meets at New City School, 7:30pm.

Other Nearby Events of Interest:

- 10/3- "St. Louis in the Gilded Age," major new exhibit at the History Museum, Forest Park. Explores how industrialization and urban development changed the lives of St. Louisans 100 years ago. Uses over 1,000 artifacts, manuscripts, photographs, books and maps. Free.
- 10/10 "Music for the Fall," St. Louis Chamber Chorus, 3pm at Trinity Lutheran Church.
- 10/15-31 "Burn This," a play by Lanford Wilson at the Orthwein Theatre at Country Day/Mary Institute. Call 995-7300.
- 10/23-31 Opera Theatre presents Judith Weir's "The Black Spider," an opera for children at CASA, 560 Trinity, U City. Call 961-0171 for information.
- 10/24 St. Roch's Book Fair at Library Ltd., noon-5pm.
- 11/5-13 "The Original Adams Family," presented by the Holy Roman Repertory Company at CASA. Call 361-7477.
- 11/13-14 Christmas Bazaar at St. Roch's

SDCC KICKS OFF NEW LOAN PROGRAM

by Jo Ann Vatcha

The Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Council has announced a new program to assist neighborhood residents who need to make exterior repairs to their homes. Each loan request must be matched by homeowner's funds. The program is targeted especially to homeowners with special needs.

The Neighborhood Revolving Loan Program will be administered by the Council through a new committee of the Council. Jo Ann Vatcha, chairman, has been working on operating procedures with SDCC staff and the members of the new committee: Jack Wright, Georgie Fox, and Joe Miller. Vatcha was previously director of Neighborhood Housing Services of St. Louis, an agency which made direct loans to homeowners. Wright, a long-time resident of Washington Heights, was president for many years of the Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Council. Fox and Miller are currently members of the Council, with Miller also serving as president of Rosedale Neighborhood Association.

A special feature of the loan program will be a very low interest rate, 3%, which will be charged if borrowers agree to repay the funds within a year. The maximum term will be 2 years, at a rate of 6%. In this way, the funds will be available to loan out again in a few months. Kim Koenig, executive director of the Council, has worked with Kathleen Hamilton to arrange for loan payments to be made directly into a special account established at the Central West End Bank.

Special features of the program are outlined below. For an application or if you have any questions, call Kim Koenig at 862-5122.

Call to Readers:

The Times needs you. We need workers to handle advertising, to write Vicissitudes, to help with distribution. Most of all, we need you to call with news from your block. We would like to feature as many stories as possible about neighborhood happenings. Call 721-7532.

In addition, there is that perpetual need for additional funds to make this paper possible. If you can see your way clear to send us a donation to 6010 Kingsbury made out to the Times it will help these issues keep coming. Thanks to all who have helped in the past, financially, editorially, and in all other ways.

* WHAT IS THE NEIGHBORHOOD REVOLVING LOAN PROGRAM?

A low-interest loan to help you make exterior repairs or improvements to your home. The Loan Program is designed to assist homeowners who live in the Skinker-DeBaliviere neighborhoods who can demonstrate a genuine need for additional funds.

* WHAT REPAIRS ARE ELIGIBLE?

- Porch repairs
- Fences
- Painting
- Collapsed sewer lines (where city doesn't pay)
- Guttering
- Tuckpointing
- Concrete
- Garage demolition or repair
- Code violations
- Doors and windows
- Restoration of architectural features
- Handicapped-accessibility

* HOW DO I APPLY FOR A LOAN?

- Fill out an application form.
- Get at least two bids from licensed contractors or prepare a list of materials.
- Bring evidence of your funds to match the loan request.
- Bring proof of ownership and paid real estate tax receipt.
- Most recent pay stubs or letter from employer, or social security award letter, or proof of pension or other income--to show ability to repay the loan.
- A picture of your house will be helpful in evaluating the work needed.

* CALL KIM KOENIG AT 862-5122.

* THE TERMS OF THE LOAN ARE:

- 3% interest rate--if loan is repaid in 12 months
- 6% interest rate--if you wish to take 24 months to repay loan
- Maximum loan \$ 1,000; minimum loan \$ 200.
- Loan request must be matched by homeowner's funds.
- Homeowner will be responsible for selection of a licensed contractor, and a City Building Inspector must ok the finished work before payment.
- Most exterior repairs will be subject to approval by Heritage and Urban Design Commission, in addition to City Building Permit rules.
- Loan applications will be reviewed and approved by a Loan Committee of the Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Council. All decisions will be final and at the sole discretion of the Council. Confidentiality of the applicant will be maintained at all times.
- First priority will be given applicants demonstrating financial need.
- Loans will be secured by a promissory note.
- Payments will be arranged through a special account to be set up at Central West End Savings Bank.

Annual Halloween Party

Rosedale Neighborhood Association/Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council is sponsoring the neighborhood's annual Halloween Party (organized by Art Santen).

Sunday, October 31, 1993

5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

St. Roch School Gym

6030 Waterman

Prizes for the ten best costumes, plus entertainment!

The party ends and trick and treating begins at 6:30 p.m.

Parents, please remember:

1. If your child is under 10, please accompany him or her trick or treating.
2. Check costumes for fire-proofing, mask for visibility, and hem lines for curb clearance.
3. Highlight dark costumes with reflective material.
4. Give children flashlights.
5. Encourage children to say "thank you," introduce themselves, stay on the sidewalk, and put wrappers and papers back into their sacks.
6. Please trick or treat this one night only between 6:30 and 7:30.

Trick or treating ends at 7:30 p.m. Please help increase the presence of adults on our streets between 6:30 and 7:30 p.m.: sit outside while you pass out candy, gather at a cul-de-sac or stroll the neighborhood for an hour.

Halloween is a special night. Let's make this year's holiday safe and fun for children and adult neighbors.



Several speakers saluted Alderman Dan McGuire on his 12th year as 28th Ward Alderman before an overflow crowd at Duff's in early September. Standing from left are Dan McGuire, Art Perry, RoseMarie Storey, Karleen Hoerr, and Esther Herron. Other speakers not pictured included Mayor Freeman Bosley, State Representative Nancy Farmer, and others.

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- Allan Cohen, KMOV-TV

DeBaliviere Delights

by Katie Kurtz, Food Editor

This month's column comes from John Sappington, long-time Skinker-DeBaliviere resident and co-owner of West End Wines in DeBaliviere Place. John lives with his wife Mary Karr and their daughter Anne in the 6100 block of Kingsbury.

If anyone is interested in submitting an article for this eating and drinking column, please call me at 727-6377. We have a special treat planned for November but would love a holiday column for December. The subject does not have to be a recipe; it could be a restaurant review of a neighborhood eatery. Let me hear from you.

Pancakes

by John Sappington

Breakfast on Sunday mornings is the favorite meal at our house. For my wife, my mother-in-law and me, it is a rare opportunity to sit down as a family and have what passes for civilized discourse on the affairs of the day. School, local politics, the ripeness of the melon, and the trials besetting Prince Valiant and his extended family are frequent topics.

Our daughter Anne is perfectly happy to break bread with us, but the reason Sunday breakfast is her favorite meal has less to do with the company than the (unvarying) menu. Pancakes.

Every Sunday morning, under Anne's exceedingly watchful eye, I cook the World's Largest Pancake. Or so we call it. In truth, she well knows this dinner-plate size flapjack is no record holder. What matters, or course, is that Anne's pancake is larger than any other in sight.

I then fix normal-sized pancakes for the rest of us from whatever batter is left over, while my wife is sizzling sausages. Finally my daughter and I put on our oven mitts and with much grunting and frequent stops to catch our breaths, lug the W.L.P. from oven to table.

I've been known to mutter about having to fix pancakes every Sunday morning of the year, but in fact I enjoy making them. Once the batter is done and the assembly line starts up, a gratifying sense of industry takes over. Pour, sip coffee, flip, sip, remove to warm oven. All very purposeful and exactly correspond-



Looking south at the Delmar Metrolink station. At upper left is the back of the old Delmar railroad station.

ing to the limits of my ambition and dexterity on Sunday morning.

I have based my recipe (a purist might say "lifted in its entirety") on the one published by that great St. Louisan, Irma Rombauer. Experienced cooks will note the only significant departure from the basic recipe is the separation of the eggs.

- 1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 3 tablespoons sugar
- 1 3/4 teaspoons baking powder
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup Milk
- 2 eggs, separated
- 3 tablespoons sweet butter, melted

Sift flour, measure, then sift again with remaining dry ingredients.

Combine milk, melted butter, and egg yolks and blend. Add liquid ingredients to dry, stirring only until the flour is absorbed. Beat egg whites stiff and fold into batter with a rubber spatula. Cook pancakes in a hot skillet (see note) and keep in a warm oven until ready to serve. Serve with sausage and maple syrup (see note).

Notes: I use an electric skillet set at 400. At this temperature I find I do not have to use any grease in the pan. The pancakes seem to rise higher, as well. If precise control is not available, sprinkle a drop or two



The newly opened and uncharacteristically empty Metrolink parking lot at DeBaliviere and DeGiverville.

of water on the pan - it should dance around. The water, that is, not the pan.

Pure maple syrup is one of this country's great culinary resources and should be used whenever possible. Commercial (cane) syrups that contain little or no maple syrup cannot compare. The best syrup comes from New Hampshire - not an opinion based on the fact it is my family's home, but an objective fact, obvious

to any palate. I tried Wisconsin syrup once, while visiting in-laws in Milwaukee and found it quite good. I understand Vermont also produces syrup, but I can't vouch for its quality.

"I want to come home to St. Louis and to my buddies and go to Blueberry Hill and eat a burger."
- broadcaster Bob Costas

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Apartment Owners Association Formed

Apartment owners in the Skinker DeBaliviere Neighborhood are in the process of organizing an association of owners and managers of rental property in their neighborhood. The purpose of the organization, like other such business organizations, is to share experiences and resources pertaining to managing residential rental units, addressing common concerns, problems and opportunities, and, in particular, promoting the Skinker DeBaliviere Neighborhood as an attractive residential location for those seeking apartments in the St. Louis area.

Membership is open to all owners or managers of rental property within the Skinker DeBaliviere Neighborhood. Meetings will be held monthly at the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council office, and will provide informational programs and opportunities to exchange information and sources with fellow owners and managers.

The organization will be providing an array of information and services, including guest speakers, promotional brochures, contractor lists, access to building security checks by the police department, and more.

We feel that this organization can provide useful information to owners or managers of neighborhood apartments, and can be of significant benefit through the promotion of the Skinker DeBaliviere Neighborhood as one of the St. Louis area's finest neighborhoods in which to live.

We invite owners and managers of rental properties to participate and become an active member in the Skinker DeBaliviere Apartment Owners Association.

The next meeting is scheduled for October 18 at 7 p.m. Please call 862-5122 for more information.

continued from Page 1

School of Business concerning a module on mortgage banking, community reinvestment, and urban renewal.

As part of its commitment to the neighborhood, Central West End Bank awarded a neighborhood improvement award for exterior home improvements made by residents of Skinker DeBaliviere. It held a fund

raiser to provide bullet proof vests for police officers and produced a calendar of drawings of St. Louis scenes done by high school students. Its commitment to the community continues to this day. It is assisting the SDCC in its establishment of a revolving loan fund (see article by JoAnn Vatcha) by providing a special payment account. Needless to

say many residents of Skinker DeBaliviere have benefited from its loan and banking services.

Hopefully, the Mississippi's waters will recede and we can join together in person on October 22 to celebrate our neighborhood and the Central West End Bank, which has done more than its share to assist in its revitalization.



Central West End Bank officers from left: Patty Thiede, Vice President/Treasurer; Kathleen Hamilton, Executive Vice President; Tom Scatizzi, President



The Central West End Bank "before"

photo courtesy Central West End Bank



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Pet Talk

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

I am often asked to help clients with their cats who have chosen to urinate or defecate outside the litter box. People are surprised that a known "fastidious" creature would take to soiling in their owner's house. Cat owners are also disappointed to have to deal with a problem they thought only belonged to dog owners. A careful history, and possibly, a few medical tests will help determine why a cat chooses to urinate outside of the litter box.

Because cats are prone to bladder infections, and one symptom of having a bladder infection is urinating frequently, and in unusual places, a bladder infection must be ruled out when considering why a cat is house-soiling. A cat suffering from a bladder infection (cystitis) will squat to urinate as often as every few minutes, sometimes straining for several minutes at a time while only producing a few drops of urine. They have a great sense of urgency and may urinate wherever they find themselves or will seek the closest available object, like an article of clothing left on the floor. The urine may be dark or grossly bloody, but can look normal to the naked eye although it contains significant amounts of blood. Male cats have a small and narrow penis which may obstruct with the blood, extra protein and mineral crystals that are found in urine during a bout of cystitis. Unless the obstruction is relieved, the cat will usually expire within 72 hours. Treated with antibiotics and prescription diets, cystitis usually resolves and the affected cat will return to using the litter box.

Cats also house-soil when they are marking their territory. Neutering a house pet greatly reduces their need to mark territory, however both neutered male, and female, cats may occasionally feel the need to stake out their surroundings by urinating outside the litter box. A cat using its urine to mark territory will "spray" its urine on a vertical object: a chair, table leg, or door jamb. This problem increases during late winter and early spring, the height of breeding season. Indoor cats, especially those in ground floor dwellings, respond to the neighborhood

cats mating, fighting, and marking territory outdoors.

Fortunately for most owners, cats will use the litter box even though the type of litter put in the box changes with what is on sale, or with what Madison Avenue has convinced the owner is best, or desired by their cat. I recommend people pick one type of litter, and if their cat uses it, not to make any changes. Plain unscented litter or one of the newer "scoopable" litters are preferable to any that are heavily scented or touted as being "odor controlling". The best odor control is a clean litter box; I suggest stool removal daily and a complete box change weekly with one box per cat. Cats will choose to void elsewhere if the box is too dirty. Keeping a box scrupulously clean with an acceptable litter is the best way not to drive a cat way from using its box.

Occasionally a cat will demonstrate a preference for a particular surface other than the litter in the box, i.e. carpeting, newspaper or hard floors. Differentiation from location preference is important. A cat will return to a particular location to void despite the surface in the location, but it will follow a favorite surface from location to location. Treatment of surface and location preference requires investigation, trial and error, plus avoidance training.

Emotional stress also will cause a cat to house-soil. Although they may seem aloof, cats respond to moving house, adding or losing a family member, alterations in work schedules, and especially, to a new cat in the house. The strained relations between cats in multiple cat households may cause house-soiling. Determining the source of stress on a cat may not always be possible. Valium is sometimes prescribed and will correct the house-soiling behavior.

I have touched on the most common house-soiling problems. Because the treatment varies depending on the cause of house-soiling, a veterinarian can help formulate a plan to determine the cause and then develop a treatment strategy.



This is not tornado damage; it is a view of one of the twenty something yard sales of Rags to Riches 1993.



Customers peruse the offerings at The Times' Book Sale. Reading her New York Times Magazine while minding the store is Lana Stein. Seated to her left is Meg Ullman who also helped out.

Vicissitudes

by Marj Weir

Been wondering where this column's been? Partially because of a plethora of other material and partially because of my own lack of time, *Vicissitudes* hasn't appeared since May. There is much catching-up to do.

Lucy Griesbach, daughter of Margaret (Peggy) Hermes of the 6100 block of Kingsbury, was Valedictorian of her class at Rosati-Kain. Crossroads School on DeBaliviere reports that Seniors Jeremy Bender and Emily Crowe have been named 1994 National Merit Scholarship Semi-Finalists and that Bevin Fahy-Vornberg, Teresa Mithen, and Jason Pargo were named as Commended Students. Jason Pargo is also a Semi-Finalist in the 1994 National Achievement Scholarship Program, a privately-financed competition for Black Americans.

Earlier in the year *The Times* reported that the St. Roch's Sixth Grade Girls' Basketball team had taken the City-County CYC Championship in their age group. They went on to compete in the Show Me Games in Columbia. Congratulations to our young achievers.

Last April Marvin Nodiff married Linda Hammond. They will reside on 61XX Westminister with Linda's daughter, Monica. On September 24, Chanaya Vatcha married Mark Jacobs just as we informed you they would earlier in the year! The bride's mother, JoAnn Vatcha, gets special mention for making

both bridesmaid's dresses. Ask her for the special details!

David and Muriel Pan have joined us in the 60XX block of Kingsbury and one block west the Burton Family - Patricia, Kenneth, Brandon and Nichole have moved in. On 6100 Westminister, Elsie Listrom has made her new home and on nearby 60XX Westminister, Jerry Minton has settled in. Welcome to them all.

Charlie Mongo of the 6100 block of Westminister had quadruple bypass surgery, which we learned of just as we go to press. Best wishes to him and his family.

Thomas R. Hoerr, PhD, was quoted in a July issue of *Newsweek* in an article on creativity in connection with his collaboration with another writer. (Yes, it's the same Tom Hoerr!) It didn't make *Newsweek* that he and his first wife Karleen narrowly missed getting towed in the infamous Metrolink parking lot debacle in August. They had just returned to the Forest Park (DeBaliviere and F.P. Expressway) from Union Station on the light rail. As they approached the spot where they had left their car, they found it in the earliest stage of being attached to the tow truck. They were barely able to escape. Five more minutes and they, too, would have been \$188 lighter.

Send your news to Marj Weir, 6120 Westminister, or call 863-7558.



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From our State Representative

by Nancy Farmer, D-64th District

I hope that regular *Times* readers will forgive my absence from these pages this past year. I had hoped to submit a column regularly, but I found that goal completely out of reach while the legislature was in session January - May. Especially for newly elected legislators like me, the pace during session was hectic at best. There were over 1,400 bills introduced in the first session of the 87th General Assembly. Many, if not most, of those bills had been introduced at least once before, but for me they were nearly all new. It was a lot to digest in five months. Many of these same bills will be introduced again in upcoming sessions. I understand now why my veteran colleagues advised me that no session will ever rival the experience of the first. Anyway, now that the *Times* and I have enjoyed a summer reprieve, I'm delighted to be back in full swing and to submit this report to my neighbors.

First, I love my job. Serving the 64th District in the Missouri House of Representatives is exciting, challenging and rewarding. There have also been frustrations and disappointments during my first 10 months in office, but I continue to learn from the experiences — the good as well as the not-so-good.

Second, I hope that all of you received my "End-of-Session Report" that was mailed early in the summer. The Report summarizes a number of the 197 bills passed by the General Assembly in the first session I supported all of the legislation described in the report. I think the greatest achievement of the legislature last session was the "Outstanding Schools Act". This bill created a new foundation formula, increased funding for public schools and included a number of reforms and accountability procedures. Education was an issue that came up repeatedly during my campaign last year and I believe this bill goes a long way toward addressing the concerns that I heard. The Report also contains summaries of bills related to health care, children, gaming and worker's comp among others. If you did not receive a copy, please

call me and I will drop one in the mail to you.

Third, there's a lot of work to get done! A priority for me is finding short and long term funding for mass transit. In the short term, Bi-State faces a budget shortfall of \$10 million this fiscal year. Without this funding, the entire public transportation system in our region could shut down as early as March, 1994. In the long term, a plan for addressing mass transit needs and funding statewide must be developed. At this point, I firmly believe that the short and long term needs must be addressed together if we are to be successful and avert the crisis for Bi-State. To that end, my colleague Rep. Joan Bray and I have been meeting with St. Louis area legislators, State Department heads, the Governor, representatives of Civic Progress, RCGA, East-West Gateway Coordinating Council and, of course, Bi-State. Everyone agrees on the goals but there is not yet consensus on the solutions. We must first unite behind one proposal before we can begin to build the support we will need in the legislature next session. This is a formidable task. To give you an idea of the numbers, there are 163 members in the House only 13 of whom represent districts in the City of St. Louis; it takes 82 votes to pass a bill. In addition, special appropriations, such as the one we are likely to need for Bi-State, must be requested by the Governor. If you want to help, please drop me a note indicating your support for mass transit in Missouri. I will keep you informed of our progress.

In addition to funding for mass transit, I am looking at the issues of crime and penalties for juvenile offenders. I know this is of utmost importance to my constituents and to the city and region. I believe that the problem lies in the lack of resources invested in the system to deal with juvenile offenders. For example, "Boot Camp" type detention centers were authorized by the legislature several years ago; we have yet to open one in Missouri. Several of my urban colleagues and I are committed to introducing legislation related to juvenile offenders in

the upcoming session. I will report on the status of this legislation in the December or January issue of the *Times*.

Other issues/projects that I'm working on this fall include: a Forest Park Summit (more information about this public forum sponsored by the Mayor will be included in the November *Times*), an interim committee studying the St. Louis Police Dept., the Police Pension system and the Public Defender's Office, the continued development of the area between the Washington University medical center complex and the St. Louis University medical center as a Bio-Medical Technopolis and looking at alternative methods to our current property tax schedule. Major issues that the legislature is likely to address next session that are of great concern to me and this district are reforms to the campaign finance laws and our state's welfare system.

Please share your thoughts and opinions on these or any issues of concern to you. Write to me at: 6026 Waterman, St. Louis, 63112, or, House Post Office, State Capitol, Jefferson City, 65101-6806. My phone number in St. Louis is 721-3083 and in Jefferson City it is 751-1400. I appreciate hearing from you.

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In Your Ear

by Hawkeye Hoerr

Imagine that you are walking through a dense forest of blackened trees. The foliage is so thick that you can hardly see the sky. Then all of a sudden, without warning, a two or three-hundred pound glob of Vaseline falls from above and surrounds you. You are immobilized; you can't breathe! Then giant fingers come from the heavens to pluck you away and wrap you in a huge Kleenex. Shortly afterwards, you are flushed down the toilet.

"What in the world kind of fantasy is this?!" you might be asking. Well dear friends, it's no fantasy. IT'S FLEA SEASON! And what I've described is the fate of the fleas on our dogs. Yep, the ultimate solution, I'm convinced, is a Vaseline one. But before the first wife and I got to this point, one of truly high sophistication, we went through a journey of trial and error of flea removal; much more error than trial. Here, then, is the saga of us versus them, man versus flea.

It started one Saturday morning a little over a month ago. I was lazily lying in bed, drifting back and forth between being asleep and being awake. In the back of my mind I could hear a thumping, rhythmic noise. I would fall off asleep, only to awaken a couple of minutes later with the thumping getting louder. Finally the noise became a din; as I sat up it became clearer in my mind. "Was someone knocking at the door?" I wondered. I could definitely hear a beating noise.

I went downstairs to find Moxie, our #1 dog, sitting on the wood floor, feverishly scratching. The leg he was using to scratch kept hitting the floor: thump, THump, THUMP. I came closer and looked and found a dozen or so tiny little fleas, jumping around on his belly. They weren't doing the Mexican Hat Dance or anything fancy, just kind of crawling around, commuting.

We have two dogs. So I knew that if Moxie had fleas, Boomer, #2 dog, would also have fleas. Sure enough. A look at her belly showed ten or so fleas, all scurrying back and forth. I've always advocated having pets. I think that pet ownership teaches responsibility. But our pets having pets, the dogs having fleas, is taking things too far.

No problem, I thought. We'll simply give 'em both flea baths. So the first wife and I pulled both dogs to the bathroom. They're not small pooches, so we have to wash them in the tub. Already this was not going the way I'd planned it. They hid, stiffened, and even growled. Our dogs, you see, view being bathed as

a fate worse than death. All I can figure is that as puppies they must have had some sort of traumatic experience in the tub. Maybe they saw "Psycho" too often.

We finally dragged both dogs into the tub, I joined them, we closed the curtain, and I turned on the shower. Their fuzzy hair grew wetter and wetter. The steam rose and the bathroom began to feel a bit like a tropical rain forest. And the dogs? It was pitiful. If someone from the SPCA had come to the front door, I'm sure that they'd put me in jail for torturing the dogs. They looked mournful and they wailed. Howling might be a better term. Between the sound of the shower beating down on them and their yelling, YEEEEOOOOOAAAAHHHH, I could hardly hear myself think. (One neighbor actually called and asked if everything was all right!)

"Quick, hand me the flea shampoo," I said to the second-in-command, "now that the doggies are wet, I want to get them lathered."

"What flea shampoo?" she replied, "I thought you had the flea shampoo!" Once again, a great plan was stymied by a lack of coordination. It's a good thing that I wasn't in charge of D-Day; we'd all be speaking German.

I rolled my eyes and grimaced in a theatrical manner. A MAJOR eye-roll. Unfortunately, since both the shower curtain and the dogs' eyes were closed, there was no one to see it. "Give me something, then," I said, "quick!"

The wife made a judgment, and, to be fair, it seemed like a good idea at the time. Her thinking was that regular, adult, shampoo probably wouldn't do the trick. And besides, who wants poodles that smell like roses? Heck, even the poodles don't want to smell like roses.

So with nary a nano-second of thought, she handed me the container of dishwasher fluid that happened to be sitting on the counter. And with nary a nano-second of hesitation, I squirted it all over the dogs. And I began to rub. And it began to bubble. And I rubbed faster and harder. And it began to bubble more. Soon the entire bathroom began to smell like a lemon.

It wasn't a minute or two before I realized our mistake, but by then it was too late. Bubbles and foam were everywhere. I could barely see the dogs; the entire shower and tub was filled with thousands, millions, of tiny white soap bubbles. The dogs were still howling, YEEEE-OOOOOOWWWWWWWW, and the bubbles were still multiplying. It was like a giant bubble-bath, gone bad. Lawrence Welk would have loved it, but the dogs hated it. I have no ideas how the fleas felt about it. I could hear the wife laughing from the other side of the shower curtain. And all I could see was white. I felt like I was lost in the Arctic somewhere, surrounded by snow with a rainstorm pelting me from above. My dogs and I were wandering along the Iditerod.

Then it happened. Moxie, I think it was, bolted from the tub. He was tired of pulling the sled, and was making his break for freedom. I grabbed, but without his collar on, it was impossible to hold him, and he was gone. Boomer, ever the follower, sprang from the tub too.

As they say at the Fairmount Track, "Aaaaand they're 'OFF!'" Both dogs charged down the steps. At least I think that it was the dogs. From the tub all I could see were two giant swarms of white bubbles, with legs, running away. But since the swarms were barking, I figured that they were the dogs.

The wife and I caught the dogs in a bit, but not until after they had turned the furniture into an obstacle course. That meant that every chair and couch in the house looked as if someone with a dirty scrub-brush and soap had done a perfunctory rubbing on it.

The dogs were captured, and since we still didn't have flea shampoo, we decided that we'd pick off the fleas, one by one. After all, I thought, how hard can that be? Answer: hard. Seeing the little buggers wasn't difficult, but grabbing them was. I'd either miss them or they'd spring from my fingers when I checked to see if I'd gotten them! Either way, I was getting far fewer fleas in my hand than in my beard. And now I was scratching!

That's when the Vaseline solution hit me. I quickly grabbed a jar and a box of Kleenex and began my expedition. Sure enough, a glob of Vaseline would stop the flea-boy or flea-girl in its tracks. That would allow me to scoop down from the sky and encapsulate the flea in my Kleenex. From there the flea would be semi-hermetically sealed in the Kleenex until sent to flea heaven by way of River Des Peres. It wasn't the easiest of tasks, and not something that I'd call fun, but hey, a man's got to do what a man's got to do. And the dogs don't mind this either. For some odd reason, they think the Vaseline is tasty, and enjoy licking their bellies afterwards.

So things are back to some semblance of normalcy in the household. Our pets no longer have pets, at least not too many, and we're stocked up with flea shampoo for the next time. In the meantime, I've started a new business, cleaning upholstery. You can find me in the Yellow Pages under "ROLLING POODLES UPHOLSTERY CLEANERS - we come to your home!"

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