

The *TIMES* of... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

Vol 24 No. 7

December 1993

FREE

The oldest neighborhood newspaper in St. Louis

Annual Martin Luther King, Jr., Commemoration Set for Jan. 16

The Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council helped to sponsor the first King Commemoration on January 8, 1988. The tradition will continue this year and the Commemoration Committee is again chaired by Jack Wright, a longtime resident of Skinker DeBaliviere and past president of the Council. This year he is assisted by Ruth Johnson, Ted Smith, Rev. Miki Merritt, Lana Stein, and SDCC Executive Director Kim Koenig.

The Commemoration will once again be held at Grace and Peace Church, Delmar at Clara. Grace and Peace is a continuing co-sponsor of this event. The commemoration will be on January 16 from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. Jack Wright will serve as emcee. The Rev. Egon Middleton of Grace and Peace will give the welcome. Gregory Freeman, Post Dispatch columnist and neighborhood resident, will deliver the keynote address on the topic of "The Need for Nonviolence, Now More Than Ever." his theme will also be addressed in readings and musical selections performed by area schools. New City, Hamilton, St. Roch, and Crossroads are being invited to par-

ticipate, as they did last year. Music also will be provided by the New Cote Brillante Church of God choir and soloists from Grace and Peace. Rev. Merritt of New Cote Brillante will deliver closing remarks.

All residents of Skinker DeBaliviere and those interested in honoring Dr. King's civil rights legacy are welcome to attend. For the younger generation, Dr. King's life and works may only have slight relevance. It may be time to discover or re-discover the words and deeds of the man who led the destruction of de jure segregation in the south and awakened to the north to its own hypocritical practices. Winner of the Nobel peace prize, King used the nonviolent methods of Gandhi to alert the nation to its peculiar dilemma and to finally cause the collective conscience to take action to eliminate it. Of course, the struggle did not end in the 1960s; inequalities, especially economic, persist. But, King offered strategies to keep fighting for greater justice. This annual Commemoration helps participants and audience alike remember and then look forward to a better world.



Commemoration Chair, Jack Wright

photo by King Schoenfeld

Talking to Jim McLeod About Undergraduate Education

by Lana Stein

Jim McLeod, a resident on 61xx McPherson, has lived in the Skinker DeBaliviere neighborhood for 16 years and is a past president of the Council. He is also an educator of note, a professor of German, and in July 1992 became the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Washington University. In this challenging position, he is responsible for the undergraduate programs for liberal arts, advising, study abroad, and the pre-med and pre-law programs. There are 3,000 students in the college and McLeod said that "is the first call on our time here."

For these undergraduates, their years at Washington U. are "their chance." It is the beginning of a different phase of their life and affects how they will conduct their lives in the future. It is more than just getting a degree.

McLeod spends a great deal of his time meeting with lots of students and in meetings period. He said that he used to criticize all the meetings in the university but now realizes "it's the only way you come together." It enables him to get things done across different administrative areas. He's grateful for his colleagues in the College; they are very experienced. He still teaches although he is taking this semester off to address certain administrative



James McLeod

projects. And, he finds time to continue working on two research projects.

McLeod noted that most students in the College come from outside the St. Louis area although a significant number are from St. Louis. Students actually are from all over the world. "It's a particular challenge when you have a meeting with students from University City, Provo, Utah, and Kuala Lumpur." He finds it exciting to bring people from disparate backgrounds together and achieve something. It makes teaching quite exciting.

McLeod spoke further about the process of college education. He remarked that the "fabric supporting young people in our society is very different" from when he and I went to school. He feels the need to work

photo courtesy of Washington University

closely with young people to help them develop intellectually and personally. "Learning is not just I'll tell you what it is and you verify it." That is not learning. It is having 18-year-olds come into a community which is about learning and how you have them connect with that process and find their place in it. McLeod feels you need to get them excited about things that did not exist in their concept a few months ago. College students need to question things they've always believed. They might acquire a new taste for music or for a different culture that you have exposed them to for the first time. And, this has to be done in the midst of the general hurry and distraction. It makes an educator wonder what knowledge is important to obtain and retain? What readings should be assigned? What should be required?

McLeod also had some advice for youth soon to go on to college. He said that you can get a good education at a lot of places. When deciding where to go, he feels it is important to consider both the academic and the personal. They're deeply intertwined. A prospective student absolutely must visit the campuses in which he or she is interested. It should feel right. It is a

deeply personal choice. "When you find your match, make the most of it. Use those years in college--the most beautiful years in life in some ways." This opportunity will not come again with the same idealism or intensity. "It is a beautiful thing in our society when young people leave home to go to a learning community." He suggested that young people go away to college if they can.

McLeod himself is a product of Morehouse College and did his graduate work at the University of Vienna and Rice University. His first job was at Indiana University and he came to Washington U. from there. He spoke highly of Washington University because of the respect and the appreciation people there have for individual differences. "No one asks Jim McLeod to be like another dean or like another professor." People there leave you alone and let you be.

He and his family like living in Skinker DeBaliviere for the same reason. "People don't require you to be what you're not; I can be what I am." It's also 7 minutes on a slow morning from bed to desk. McLeod also likes the ambience of the neighborhood and loves the people and he just likes how our streets look.

THANK YOU

Ray, Joan, and John Breun would like to thank all the members of the Skinker-DeBaliviere Neighborhood for their many kindnesses during this time right after the discovery of the body of Ben Breun in the Mississippi. Ben had left for work on Thursday, October 7. He never made it. His car was found stripped in an alley in North St. Louis on October 22. His body was found in the river by a passing tugboat operator on October 24, badly decomposed to the point it could only be identified by dental records. We miss Ben a great deal, and this time after his murder has been difficult, eased by the support of St. Roch Parish and the residents of this neighborhood, relatives, and friends.

A memorial fund was established at St. Roch Parish & School: the B.E.N. Fund (Best Education in the Neighborhood). Memorials to the fund have already come from Arizona to Wisconsin. Ben received an outstanding education at St. Roch. He eventually volunteered in the Archives at the Old Courthouse where he was published under the title: *Finding Aid to the Mechanics' Institute of St. Louis Records, ca. 1830-1894*. This book is catalogued in the Library of Congress with a publication date of 1989. He also volunteered in the curatorial division of the St. Louis Science Center in their Maps project. In the summer between high school and college he was involved in an archaeological dig under the aegis of the University of Sheffield, England, among third century Roman ruins in south central France.

Ben has left whatever mark he will make. Through the B.E.N. Fund perhaps others can be encouraged to do similar and even more successful ventures of an intellectual kind. A number of Skinker-DeBaliviere neighbors have made memorials to this fund and we hope it will grow over time. We, his parents and brother, are very grateful for all the support this neighborhood has shown. We hope out of this uncivilized event can come something to support the kind of civilization Ben stood for.

HOLIDAY GREETINGS
To One And All
From The Board Members Of
The TIMES
Of SKINKER DEBALIVIERE!

The TIMES of... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

Editor: Lana Stein
 Business Manager: JoAnn Vatcha
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The Times of Skinker DeBaliviere is published by the West End Publishing Co., a not-for-profit, community organization. Members of the Board of Directors are:

Ray Breun	Katie Kurtz	Sue Rothschild	JoAnn Vatcha
Tom Hoerr	Venita Lake	King Schoenfeld	Marjorie Weir
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 The Times, 6008 Kingsbury, 63112, or call 863-7558.

Guidelines for Submitting Copy

The Times welcomes unsolicited articles and letters. Because of the small size and volunteer nature of the writing staff, the quality and range of The Times has always depended in large part on submissions from non-staff area residents.

All material - articles, letters, notices, classified ads - must be typewritten on opaque paper, double-spaced, and signed. Signature on correspondence to the editor may be omitted by request. Calendar listings should be 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.

CALENDAR



Neighborhood Meetings/Events:

- 12/6 Community Fund Subcommittee, SDCC, 6:30 pm.
- 12/9 MLK Commemoration Planning Committee, SDCC, 5:15 pm
- 12/11 Saturday with Santa, SDCC 1-3pm. Santa will be here to take pictures with the kids. Candy! Food donations will also be taken to create food baskets to give to needy neighborhood families.
- 12/13 SDCC Board Meeting, 6219 Westminster, 6:30 pm.
- 12/14 West End Arts Council, SDCC, 7pm.
- 12/16 Bingo Worker Appreciation Party, SDCC, 7pm.
- 12/19 Open House at 6036 Washington, 2-4pm. Open to all residents.
- 1/16 Martin Luther King, Jr., Commemoration, "The Need for Nonviolence - Today More Than Ever," Grace and Peace Fellowship, 5574 Delmar, 3-5pm.

Other Events of Interest:

- now The Gilded Age exhibit continues at the History Museum. Weekends feature performances by actors from the Holy Roman Repertory Company. Free.
- now-12/30 "Holiday Latitude," an exhibit of gallery artists at Componere Gallery, 6505-6509 Delmar.
- 12/4 Three live Santa Claus shows at Blueberry Hill, 6504 Delmar. Times are 1, 2, and 3:00pm.
- 12/5 Maryse Carlin and The Memorial Players, Bach Cantata #51, soloist Susan Werner. Memorial Presbyterian Church, 201 S. Skinker, 12 noon. 721-0943.
- 12/10 28th Ward Regular Democratic Club Holiday Party. Portland Towers, 5:30-8pm.
- 12/24 Midnight Mass at St. Roch, 10pm.
- 1/8 10th Annual Elvis Birthday Celebration, Blueberry Hill, 7pm.
- 2/12 Paul and Linda's Wedding, 1:30pm. A real wedding in the window at Blueberry Hill!

Playing Basketball for Operation Teamwork

By Nola Mahone

Operation Teamwork is a program designed to give inner city youths something to participate in. It is not designed to make a profit. To participate, you must be between the ages of 7 and 18. The program is designed to provide an opportunity for kids to get in touch with their neighborhood, adult role models, and to have fun.

Basketball will be the upcoming activity in January. The actual teams will be put together in December. What you will get for participating are uniforms, trophies, and fun. The practices and tryouts are to be held within the neighborhood, most likely at Hamilton Community School. To find out more information about Operation Teamwork, call Kim Koenig at the Skinker De-Baliviere Community Council office at 862-5122 or call the Operation Teamwork office at 361-0015 and ask for Lee O'Donnell.

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A Grand Opening at New City School

by Lana Stein

New City School, located nearby at Waterman and Lake, and led by Dr. Thomas Hoerr, our neighbor and Times columnist, is entering its 25th year of educating area children in grades K-6. New City is beginning this auspicious anniversary in a telling manner. After raising one and a quarter million dollars, the school acquired nearby land and built a state-of-the-art playground and athletic fields. Besides being utilized by New City students, the facilities will be available to the neighborhood.

On November 3, several hundred fans of New City as well as countless students joined in the dedication and ribbon cutting for the new play spaces. The crowd sipped cider and sampled cookies while admiring the design, the equipment, and the marvelous animal sculptures prepared by a local artist. The frogs and the hippos were special hits.

The New City board dedicated the new playground to Tom and Karleen Hoerr amid rounds of applause. A plaque will be placed at the site. The official ribbon cutter was St. Louis's mayor, Freeman Bosley Jr. Before the ceremonies began, he mingled with crowd, signed autographs for children, and spoke personally with many of the youngsters on hand.



In his remarks, Mayor Bosley praised New City School for offering the finest elementary education and said it should be a model for the city.

The festivities began at 4:00 p.m. When they concluded, darkness had fallen, but New City lit the sky with brilliant fireworks, causing surprise and queries from helicopter traffic pilots!

Congratulations New City and Dr. Tom Hoerr!

Frank Hamsher congratulating Tom and Karleen Hoerr on the dedication of the playground.



Mayor Freeman Bosley and New City Students.



The Ribbon Cutting

Walgreen's Update

On November 17, the Board of Adjustment denied the request for a zoning variance on the land at De-Baliviere and Pershing, now used as a MetroLink parking lot, on a 4-1 vote. The owner of the land, Ted Krakover, has the right to re-apply or he could challenge the ruling in Circuit Court. His son, Tom, told the SDCC board that they would build at that site one way or another. He felt the solution was a Walgreen's combined with a MetroLink parking lot but if denied they would build on that parcel of the land already zoned

commercial. He suggested a White Castle. Meanwhile, BiState would still like to acquire that land for a parking lot but is awaiting the fate of some federal grant applications in order to have the capital to do so. At this writing, some feel that Krakover will end his month-to-month lease with BiState for parking at the site regardless. This parking facility fills up every weekday and is often three quarters full on weekends, even with the baseball season over for this year. For information, contact SDCC at 862- 5122.

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Pet Talk

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

Ear Problems

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

What?! You say your dog doesn't respond when you walk in the room? Your cat spends all night jangling the bell on his collar while scratching his ears? You just lifted your cocker spaniel's ear, wondering where that foul odor comes from, and were sorry that you found out? Welcome to the world of otitis externa--inflamed ears.

Ear mites! Not always. Puppies and kittens acquire ear mites more often than adult pets. When adult cats are allowed outdoors, they sometimes come home with ear mites. Mites are easily and effectively treated with topical cleaning, medication, and occasionally with injectable medication. Indoor pets are not exposed and seldom get ear mites. Persistent cases are caused by mites harbored in locations other than ears: bedding, furniture, carpets, or other parts of the cat's body; a cat curls up in a ball to sleep, putting its head near the rear quarters, leaving mites behind. No pun. So, the dark wax, itchy ears, and odor have another cause.

Now comes the chicken or the egg part of the story. Does an animal scratch its ears because they are



Cat

infected, or do they become infected because of the trauma from the scratching? Infection is usually a secondary problem; it can be severe, but once treated, the pet will likely still be bothered with itchy ears.

Allergy causes itchy ears in many pets. Food, inhaled or contact pollens, molds, and house dust can

Home Improvement

by Amrit Gill

Welcome to your new Home Improvement column! Since this is the first installment, I feel I should introduce myself. My name is Amrit Gill. I have lived in the neighborhood for the last 5 years and own my own remodeling company which is in the process of rehabbing two properties in Skinker DeBaliviere.

With the holidays approaching a project that many homeowners consider is interior painting. Having done a lot of interior painting (and having made a lot of mistakes along the way), I thought this might be a topic of interest for the readers of the Times.

There are three basic factors that determine the quality of a paint job: quality of preparation, quality of the paint, and the quality of the application.

Quality of preparation is important for a variety of reasons. First,

be the source of allergies. An allergic pet shakes its head and scratches its ears excessively causing trauma to the external canal and ear flap. The damaged tissues become secondarily infected with bacteria. The resulting symptoms are pain, redness, foul odor and discharge. Owners need to bring their ailing pets to the veterinarian.

Excess wax production and accumulation also may result from underlying allergy. Large accumulation of wax deep in the ear canal creates irritation, decreases hearing ability, and can instigate a bacterial infection.

Dogs with floppy ears are prone to yeast colonization in their ear canals especially when the dog has an allergy. The lining of the canal becomes thickened and moist, the perfect place for yeast to grow. Owners notice the strong odor from a dog's ear when a yeast infection is present.

A complete otoscopic exam plus a microscopic exam of material from an infected ear will allow a veterinarian to prescribe appropriate treatment for an ear infection. Sometimes, a pet requires routine treatment or cleaning to prevent the return of an ear infection. A pet with allergies needs evaluation and possibly long term treatment for the allergies to control frequent ear infections.

paint will not adhere well to dusty or dirty walls. This seems like a very basic observation, but it is surprising how many homeowners will call me because they cannot get their paint to "stick." All walls that are going to be painted need to be wiped down (I use a mixture of warm water and TSP or household ammonia). Only when you have a clean wall can you accurately evaluate what further preparation the wall needs before the finish coat of paint can be applied (fix cracks, nail holes, etc).

I have found that with old plaster walls its well worth it to use a shellac sealer/primer such as Kilz or Bulls Eye. Both these products seal the wall and are stain killers that cover crayon marks, water stains, etc. This is a great product for people with children as it can cover up many stains and blemishes. If moisture is a problem that cannot be alleviated, an alkyd underbody with a vapor barrier is advised; find these at any paint store. Once the wall is cleaned and primed, it is ready for the first coat of paint.

It is very important to use a good quality of paint. It is also important to select the type of paint with care. I have found that good washable eggshell or satin finish latex paint lasts longest in high usage areas such as hallways. This is great because, although it is washable, it is also latex for easy application and clean up. Avoid semi gloss paint for plaster walls since it tends to highlight the irregularities in the plaster. I have used washable flat latex paint with mixed results, the eggshell finish is better in my opinion. Cheap paint not only looks cheap but only lasts a short time. Don't be fooled by the short term savings--all paints are not the same. (The value for your money is a mid range Glidden - Consumer Reports 1993).

The best paint in the world will show poorly if the application is spotty or streaky. Over plaster walls I recommend using a 3/4 inch nap roller, with the paint in a bucket with a grille inside it. Apply the paint without a lot of pressure on the roller. Brush the corners and edges before you roll so that the paint merges together better.

If you need advice please feel free to write or call the SDCC office to find out how to get in touch with me. Next month: How to get the most out of your heating system.

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- St. Louis Post-Dispatch

Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council Board of Directors Minutes

October 11, 1993

Attending the meeting were: Directors R. Johnson, S. Polk, J. Miller, L. Stein, J. Wright, G. Hayes, B. Bender, A. Webb, A. Carr, A. Johnson, S. Johnson, ConServ Officer J. Waits, Alderman D. McGuire, and Executive Director K. Koenig

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

NEW BUSINESS

I. Request from SDCHC for Council Actions

S. Feinberg and A. Hamilton asked for SDCC to support financial restructuring and management improvements to Westside Property (66 units on 6000/6100 Pershing, Waterman, and McPherson). Westside Properties is the original Mead McClellan project on the 6000/6100 block of Pershing, Waterman, and McPherson and currently owned by the St. Louis Public Development Corporation. J. Miller moved "That the Westside Promissory Note in the original principal amount of \$340,000.00 be canceled, and that the Executive Director be authorized to execute any and all documents related to this action"; seconded by S. Polk and approved with two abstentions

II. Walgreen's Presentation/Discussion

Jim Herries, Director of Real Estate, Bi-State Development Corporation, confirmed that Bi-State hopes to retain the property at DeBaliviere and Forest Park Parkway as a MetroLink lot, but is unable to purchase the lot at this time. Presently, Bi-State pays \$2,000 per month for the lot. Bi-State is also in the process of applying for additional funds through Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) program funds. If granted, Bi-State may be able to purchase the lot.

Tom Hall, architect for the proposed project, and Ted Krakover, owner of the property, presented revised plans for a Walgreen's store at DeBaliviere and Forest Park Parkway. The site plan has changed since presented to SDCC in June. Changes include: four feet of height added to the store, a more angled

curb cut onto DeBaliviere, and the owner's agreement to a deed restriction which would prohibit liquor sales and include all conditions in the June agreement. Alderman McGuire explained that a hearing on this matter will probably be held before the Board of Adjustment in a month. Because the overwhelming sentiment of the Board was to retain the lot for MetroLink parking and because Bi-State has not given us enough information on their ability/timetable to purchase the lot, J. Miller moved "That the Council forgo a decision on Walgreen's until further information from Bi-State is received"; seconded by A. Webb and unanimously approved. K. Koenig, L. Stein, and S. Polk will draft a letter to Bi-State requesting additional information on behalf of the Council.

OLD BUSINESS

I. Review Minutes

A. Webb moved "That minutes of the September Board meeting be approved as read"; seconded by B. Bender and approved

II. Treasurer's Report

R. Johnson moved "That the treasurer's report for September be accepted as read"; seconded by S. Polk and approved.

III. Committee/Association Reports

J. Waits reported that a public meeting will be held on November 1 at 7 p.m. at New City School to examine plans for Forest Park. Everyone is welcome to attend.

DeGiverville - A. Johnson reported that there is suspected drug activity on his block. He also requested that "No Parking" signs be placed on the MetroLink bridge at Hamilton and DeGiverville. Alderman McGuire will follow up on this.

Kingsbury Square - R. Johnson reported that new officers were elected at the annual meeting.

Nina Place - L. Stein reported that new officers were elected for their condo association. Parkview - K. Keaveny reported that they are



photo by King Schoenfeld

Winners of 1993 Halloween Costume Contest at St. Roch.

planning for a Halloween Party to be held at the end of the month.

Rosedale - J. Miller reported that RNA gave \$500 to L. Stein and *The Times* from Rags to Riches proceeds. Planning is currently underway for the annual Halloween party on October 31, to be held at St. Roch's from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Housing Corporation - K. Koenig reported that 519 Des Peres will probably be demolished by the end of the year.

Recreation - B. Bender reported that we are working with Hamilton Community School to form basketball teams through Operation Teamwork. The season begins in December.

Commercial Planning - L. Stein reported that the Delmar Redevelopment Plan will hopefully be completed before the end of the year.

Beautification - No report.

Fundraising - K. Koenig reported that the Tom Sawyer riverboat cruise has been canceled due to damage the boat sustained because of the flood.

A spring date will be targeted for rescheduling this event.

Revolving Loan - K. Koenig reported that the program was advertised in the October issue of *The Times*.

Social Services - B. Bender reported that SDCC has one intern from Washington University's School of Social Work. Her first project, with the assistance of other Washington University students, will be weatherizing senior citizens' homes on November 6. She will also be working on grant writing and coordinating a Bicycleworks program for our neighborhood.

MLK Commemoration - J. Wright reported that the committee will meet in November to develop a program for this event. He suggested that the committee contact Patricia McKissack to be the keynote speaker.

IV. Director's Report

Director's Review - J. Miller reported that an evaluation form will be sent to each Board member for return by October 25. The forms will be reviewed by a committee comprised of J. Miller, C. Forslund, G. Hayes, and A. Smith Carr.

Bingo Update - K. Koenig reported that bingo is going well at the Salad Bowl. She requested that Board members sign up to work. Washington University students have agreed to staff four nights this semester.

SDCC Office Move - K. Koenig asked for volunteers to assist with moving on Saturday, October 16, at 9 a.m.



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Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council

Board of Directors Minutes

November 8, 1993

Attending the meeting were: Directors R. Johnson, B. Bender, S. Johnson, J. Miller, G. Hayes, A. Webb, J. Wright, L. Stein, T. Roland, S. Polk, A. Smith Carr, K. Keaveny, and M. Merritt, ConSery Officer J. Waits, Alderman D. McGuire, and Executive Director K. Koenig.

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

NEW BUSINESS

I. Walgreen's Update/ Discussion

Tom Hall, architect for the proposed project, and Ted Krakover, owner of the property, presented architectural changes on the site plan. They also discussed the possibility of a joint development with Bi-State. This would include building a Walgreen's and constructing a subterranean parking garage for Bi-State. Many residents present from 5700 DeGiverville expressed strong opposition to Walgreen's. After much discussion, L. Stein moved "That the variance be denied for the construction of a Walgreen's. While we recognize the steps the owners have taken to satisfy our concerns, we feel a MetroLink parking lot is a better use and is preferred by the immediate neighbors"; seconded by J. Miller and approved with one opposed and one abstention. K. Koenig will submit a letter to the Board of Adjustment on the Council's behalf by November 17.

OLD BUSINESS

I. Review of Minutes

A. Webb moved "That the minutes of the October Board meeting be accepted as read," seconded by B. Bender and approved.

II. Treasurer's Report

L. Stein moved "That the treasurer's report for October be accepted as amended," seconded by T. Roland and approved.

III. Committee/Association Reports

5700 DeGiverville - S. Polk reported that Old Newsboy's Day is Thursday, November 18. She also

reported that U.S. mail delivery to their block is frequently very late (between 4 and 5 p.m.). K. Koenig will draft a letter of inquiry to the local post office

Kingsbury Square - No report.

Nina Place - No report.

Parkview - K. Keaveny reported that the Parkview picnic was very successful, as was their Halloween Party. She also requested that police be made aware of the SDCC meeting schedule so that they could provide security presence as meetings let out.

Rosedale - J. Miller reported that the St. Roch's Halloween party was very successful with good participation. The next scheduled event is "Saturday with Santa" on December 11 from 1 to 3 p.m. He also outlined the events Rosedale has hosted since April 7, 1993; nine in all.

Housing Corporation - No report.

Recreation - K. Koenig reported that we are continuing to work with Hamilton Community School on formation of neighborhood youth basketball teams.

Commercial Planning - L. Stein reported that Alderman Clay is in the process of reviewing the redevelopment plan.

Revolving Loan - No report.

Social Services - B. Bender reported that our Washington University intern assisted with home weatherization for 30 residents on November 6. Two future dates for home weatherization will be announced in late November. Our intern is also helping with grant writing and planning for a Bicycleworks program. J. Wright has agreed to assist our intern as a community resident assistant.

MLK Commemoration - J. Wright reported that the MLK ceremony will be held on January 15 at Grace and Peace. A planning committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 16, at 6:30 p.m., at SDCC. Greg Freeman has agreed to be our guest speaker.

IV. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Bingo Update - K. Koenig requested that Board members sign up to work.

Forest Park Summit - K. Koenig reported that this event will be held December 3 - 5, and encouraged anyone interested to attend. To register, call 768-7604.

SDCC Holiday Party - K. Koenig reported that after our regular Board meeting on December 13, a party will be held to recognize our institutional members. Location will be announced soon.

Resolution to Support Parkview Properties - K. Koenig reported that A. Hamilton is attempting to get financing for the purchase and management of 66 TAC-owned units in our neighborhood. He requests a letter of support from SDCC. L. Stein moved "That the Council support efforts of A. Hamilton and Parkview Properties for local ownership and control of 66 TAC-owned units in the neighborhood," seconded by A. Webb with one abstention.

Resolution in Recognition of M. Brais - J. Miller moved "That the Council recognize the contributions of M. Brais in helping us organize bingo as an ongoing fundraiser for SDCC," seconded by J. Wright and approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

IN YOUR EAR

Continued from page 8

clawfoot legs. Somehow dad knew that the legs could be unscrewed so that they could be removed. He and mom figured out that it would be easier to remove the legs to lay the tile than cutting the tile to fit around the legs. Unfortunately, he was right. Dad unscrewed all four legs of the tub, so that it was about four inches above the floor, suspended only by the water pipes running up from the basement.

Then, in an effort to get the linoleum laid in the corner by the window, dad stepped into the tub.

He wasn't a heavy man, but he was heavy enough. Mom helped him into the tub and it happened. Sure enough, the tub sagged under his weight and the pipes broke. Water shot everywhere. It was like having two geysers in the bathroom, one hot and one cold. Ever the helpful son, I started laughing uncontrollably, and got yelled at. To this day, whenever I see a clawfoot tub, I think of my dad, standing in the leaning tub with water spraying everywhere. What started out as an exercise in home repair ended up as a vocabulary lesson: I learned all kind of new words from my dad that day! That was the last time dad ever tried to do anything around the house. My mom was eternally grateful.

Even more now, I think that the nicest thing about my family is that when I think about my relatives, I feel normal.



A Special Friend at St. Roch

by Wilma Cantwell

St. Roch pre-schoolers want you to meet a very special friend. She is "Grandma Naomi." Grandma Naomi can be found every Friday morning of the school year at St. Roch Pre-School, 6040 Waterman. She is one of several helpers who volunteer her time and talents to our children.

Grandma Naomi is Mrs. Naomi Roach. She is mother, grandmother, and a great grandmother. Mrs. Roach is a member of St. Roch's Parish and has lived in the Skinker-DeBaliviere area for many years.

The children look forward to Friday mornings because Grandma Naomi brings a special loving touch to the pre-School program. She reads to them and helps them with their projects. When not reading to the children, Grandma Naomi can be found helping the children with puzzles, building with legos, observing the children in the housekeeping area or painting with the little ones.

Naomi enjoys sharing her talents and love with the children and they, in turn, share their love with her.

Thank you Grandma Naomi, from all of us at St. Roch.

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Jason Allen: Nintendo Victim

by Jeffrey Schoenfeld

(Continued from the November issue.)

Jason Allen, Nintendo player, has been receiving mysterious messages on his TV while playing the electronic game. He has gone for help to Forest James, computer wizard at Blockbuster and to Alexandra Dayland, owner of the Dayland Coffee/Computer Repair.)

Forest stopped daydreaming and said, "I think that what would help a lot more would be for you or us to look at the Nintendo instead of just talking about it."

"How far away is your house, Jason? My next appointment isn't until about six-thirty, so if I wanted to look at the system, we could go back and check it out."

"I think that would work. I live about five blocks away."

"Then let's go!" said Alex as she shrugged her shoulders. Forest let out a long sigh and then lifted himself to his feet. Jason held his ears as they left the building.

"Wait! How are we going to get into your house and stay there without your parents seeing us? I mean, since you were only pretending to take your dog for a walk, I would guess that you didn't want your parents to know."

An exclamation point almost appeared over Jason's head. "Uh...I guess if we go through the back, they might not see us."

"Geez," Forest had his eyes fixed on the back of Alex's hair for the rest of the way, trying to get an idea. When they reached Jason's house, they came around the back and through the gate to arrive at the deck. Jason popped his head into the back door to check for parents. Agatha wasn't around. Bruce wasn't either, but Jason remembered that last night Bruce told him he would be developing pictures. Jason twirled around and said, "I don't see my mom, and my dad is in the darkroom making pictures. I think that should take a while, because he doesn't develop pictures a lot."

"Maybe we should hurry up the stairs and close the door to the room that your Nintendo is in," said Forest as he pointed to the top floor.

"Okay," Jason opened the door. Alex examined the deck a little, as her eyes swayed right to left, and then followed Jason and Forest. They all tiptoed as fast as they could up the carpeted stairway. Alex and Forest swished past Jason into the room, and he closed the door just slowly enough not to slam it. Jason walked over to the other two, who were kneeling in front of the Nintendo, and said, "Are you going to disassemble the Nintendo?"

"I want to be able to see it first," said Alex as she pushed the power button. Jason turned on the T.V. and said, "The game is already in there."

"You want to try it?" Alex handed the controller to Jason.

"I'll play until I get the messages."

"You know, Jason, I don't think you need a surveillance camera up there. This isn't a very dangerous neighborhood," said Forest.

"Well, you never know." Jason never looked away from the screen. When Jason reached Toad's House, he said, "Here I am. When I go in here, it'll say something weird." Alex was grasping her chin, staring at Toad's House, waiting. The message said: "OH, GREAT! YOU'VE GOT SOME FRIENDS ALONG. I'M NOT GIVING UP IN WHAT I'M GOING TO DO. YOU JUST WAIT! REMEMBER, PATIENCE IS EVERYTHING."

"Gosh! Are you going to take it apart now?" asked Forest.

"I guess. I'll turn off the Nintendo." Alex reached over to the system and turned it off as she talked. Jason and Forest watched Alex remove the top of the Nintendo and then look at things.

"It doesn't look like anything is wrong with the Nintendo at all," said Alex as she looked up.

"There are lots of other possibilities of where the messages are coming from," said Jason.

"But I don't really want to take apart anything else right now," said Alex. Soon she left (without being seen), and so did Forest.

O

Another week passed as Jason waited for something to happen. Nothing did. Friday after school Jason played some Nintendo. He put in Wizards and Warriors and just as the introduction to the game began, a message box appeared for no reason. It read: "HA, HA. NO MATTER WHAT YOU PLAY, I'M GOING TO GET TO YOU. ANYWAY, I'VE DECIDED TO GET YOU TONIGHT."

"While I'm sleeping?" Jason thought. He turned off the Nintendo with his toe. Later, he cautiously brushed his teeth and put on his pajamas. Then he crawled into bed. Jason's hazel eyes glared at nothing for a while, and then he fell off the bed. He lifted off the covers and there was a slipper, rubber snake. Jason picked it up, and when the mouth opened, there was a mechanical voice that said, "Ha, ha."

The next morning when his parents left, Jason called Forest.

"Hi, this is Jason. It happened."

"What?"

"I found a rubber snake in my bed that said, 'Ha, ha.'"

"Is that what the message sender did?"

"Yeah. I know that nothing can be wrong with the game, because I played my other game and another message came up."

"Then it would have to be coming through the T.V."

"But who would be able to reach my T.V.?"

"Anybody."

"Why don't we get together with Alex and tell her?"

"Okay."

"Bye." I'll call back when I have an appointment."

"Bye." They both hung up. Jason dialed the number for Dayland Coffee/Computer Repair and got it right the first time.

"Woohoo!" shouted Jason. "What's so great?" someone asked on the other end. Jason put his hand over his mouth and then said, "This is Jason Allen. I want to make an appointment for today."

"Okay. You can come right over."

"Okay," said Jason and then hung up. Jason dialed for Forest and missed the seven. He dialed again and said, "Forest, we should come right over."

"I'll meet you there. Bye."

When Jason came into the building, he saw Forest sitting in a chair.

"Hi. Why do you always hold your ears when you come in?"

"It's an old Allen ritual."

"Right," said Forest and then looked at the lady behind the counter. Jason asked her, "Should we go up there?"

"She's not busy. Forest, you owe me for the coffee last week."

Forest paid her and they went upstairs. Jason knocked on the door. Alex appeared in the doorway and seemed to tower over Jason. He walked in and said, "I know that nothing could be wrong with the actual Super Mario game, because I played a different game and I saw another message."

"Did they get you yet?"

"Yeah. The person put a rubber snake in my bed that talked through some machine in its mouth. It said, 'Ha, ha.'"

Forest said, "We were discussing that the only way the message could come through is by someone transmitting through the T.V."

The phone rang. Alex picked it up and said, "Hello... You do?... I love that place!... Okay. You know, there's this boy here and there's messages coming through his Nintendo and... So soon? Why would you even call me if that was going to happen in two minutes?... Okay. Bye."

Alex slowly hung up. Then she said, "That was weird. My friend from Union Electric called right when she was about to have a meeting."

"I'm noticing something strange," said Forest. "Just when you mentioned Jason and the messages, she has to go."

Jason jumped up and said, "Someone from Union Electric could've sent messages anywhere!"

"I have an idea. Jason, how did you get out of the house today?" said Alex.

"Every Saturday my parents go on their weekend shopping, and I'm alone for a while."

"Next week we could take a short trip over to my friend's workplace and maybe ask a few questions."

"Perfect," said Jason and grinned as he looked at the ceiling. He looked like a mad scientist.

O

The next week, after they had agreed to meet back at Dayland Coffee/Computer, they all drove to Union Electric. They went into the building, and Alex said, "I think she works over here," and she led them through a door. They arrived at the desk of a young looking lady with a pointy nose and chin. Alex introduced them.

"Hi, Jackie. This is Jason and this is Forest."

"Oh, could you wait a second? I have to go to the bathroom. You know, patience is—well, just a minute," she said.

Alex said, "You know what? I really have to go, too." They both walked off, and then Jackie ran ahead.

"It's her!" Forest screamed in a whisper. "Remember in the message it said, Patience is everything!"

When Alex and Jackie returned, Jason said, "We know who you are!" He felt like doing a back flip.

"What? What am I?"

"You're an evil message sender to poor, defenseless kids, that's what you are!" Jason put on his mad scientist face again.

"So what if I am?" asked Jackie.

"So, you're really good at it!"

Jackie hardly expected a compliment at this time.

"How did you get in my house that time? And put a snake in my bed? I mean, I have a surveillance camera at home in my room."

Jackie answered, "I was controlling the camera at the time. That's how I knew you had Forest and Alex over."

"I had better go home soon," said Jason. "Hope to see you soon."

"Are we friends all of a sudden?" asked Jackie.

"Why not?" Jason shrugged his shoulders.

"Bye," said Jackie.

Jason decided he had enough adult secret friends for now. He arrived home and came through the back door to pretend he was on a walk. Jason went in and up the stairs. He saw Agatha go into the bathroom. Later Jason was playing Nintendo when Agatha came in.

"Jason, why are there still all these chip crumbs stuck in the bathroom rug?"

(The Times will consider publishing fiction and non-fiction writing from its readers, young people and adults. Mail or drop off manuscripts at the Skinker-DeBaliviere office. The Times would prefer receiving stories on 3.5" computer disks as well as paper print-outs, if possible.)



"Blueberry Hill is a treat - visual, aural and gustatory."

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"An odd nostalgia seems to hang over it all, a sawdust chic."

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In Your Ear

by Hawkeye Hoerr

Thank you. It's nice to know that someone reads this column. Even better yet, someones. Month after month, I toil away, pouring my heart and soul on to my trusty word processor, sharing my syllables and essence with you, dear reader. Most often it's a bit like throwing a rock into the ocean; who can tell? Not the rock.

But last month's column was different. What a reaction! I heard from well over a dozen readers, and even received some fan mail. Obviously, the sharing of my family touched you, if I say so myself. To those folks who stopped by the office to see the wedding photo of Aunt Liz and Uncle Ira, attired respectively in basketball outfit and referee's uniform, I'm sorry that it was unavailable. As soon as the frame gets repaired, I'll have it rehung. And to Ms. Elaine Deutch, thank you for your nice note. You're right; learning about California's history from the San Francisco Chronicle's obituary column sounds like something that belongs in my family!

It's nice to ring a responsive chord. I guess all of us have odd family members, and my column reminded all of you of all of yours. (Heck, maybe my column reminded another one of your family members of you!) See, you're not alone.

But there's more about my family.

As a teenager, Uncle Zeke used to steal cars. Now, in Zeke's defense, he would say that he wasn't actually STEALING the cars, he was borrowing them. He always intended to return the cars to their rightful owners. (In fact, on two or three occasions he did just that. Once he had a Ford Thunderbird for two weeks before he returned it, parking it back in the garage from which he'd taken it. He even filled up the gas tank. Mileage was important to Zeke.)

I first remember hearing of Zeke's car-borrowing exploits at the dinner table when I was ten or eleven. It was a typical family get-together, a celebration of someone's birthday. Everyone was there, even Cousin Polly Esther from Burlington! She came in, late as usual, and with \$5 checks for all of us kids. We each came to her for a hug and a check. Finally we had all collected our checks, but she still had an envelope in her hands.

"Where's Zeke?" she said and the room grew quiet. I hadn't realized he was missing. Finally my Aunt Annie said, "Zeke's gone on a vacation." "WOW," I chirped, "a vacation! Where'd he go?" The icy stares that came my way could have been no worse had I asked Cousin Polly if this year's gift check would bounce too. "We'll talk later," my mom said, clamping her hand over my mouth and rolling her eyes toward the heavens.

It turns out that Zeke had grown bored just borrowing a car here and there, and had decided to add a little excitement to his life. Yep, you guessed it: he stole a bus. And not just any bus, but the bus that the police use to take prisoners from the courthouse to the jail! It's a green bus with metal screens all over the windows, a gumball red light on top, and a sign on back, that shouts in big letters, "CAUTION! STAY BACK 50 FEET. THIS BUS CONTAINS PRISONERS." One of the guards had gone somewhere and left the keys in the ignition, Zeke just got in to move the bus away from a fire hydrant. At least that's what he told the judge.

Zeke and Paul, his best friend, started heading west. With some logic, they figured that once they got a state or two away, no one would think twice about the prison bus. It was actually pretty good reasoning. Zeke later told me that they had been only stopped once during the entire vacation, not counting the capture, by a policeman in Salinas, Kansas. Paul was driving and told the cop that they were bounty-hunters and had leased the bus from the police department. That seemed to satisfy him, and they were on their way again.

The trip, Zeke referred to it as his "WestWardHo Vacation," lasted until they got to Reno. By then, word of the missing Prisoner Bus has reached the authorities in every state in the union. Zeke and Paul were caught while eating in the bus at a drive-in hamburger stand and were sent back to St. Louis for a trial. By the time they were caught, they had painted the Prisoner Bus red, covering all of the printing, and had removed the gumball light on the top. The steel mesh screen on the windows gave them away.

It turns out, though, that on the way to Nevada they had been driving down a side road, had seen some heavy black smoke, stopped, and wound up using a garden hose to put out a house fire, rescuing a mother and six-month old baby in the process. They had been local celebrities for a while until Paul figured that they better head out before too many questions were asked. They vanished in the night, making their heroic deeds all the more mysterious and exciting. The Nevada press tracked them down to St. Louis. While the van was painted, Zeke had been wearing a Cardinal hat and a John Burroughs t-shirt, so it wasn't too hard to figure things out. Two reporters called here trying to interview him. They found him in jail, awaiting trial. But when the judge heard about Zeke's and Paul's bravery, he gave them a suspended sentence and they were let go.

Of course, when Cousin Polly arrived from Burlington, the boys were in the City's holding tank. We hadn't heard about their courageous adventures yet, and knew only of the borrowed Prisoner Bus, so the family was a little uptight about the entire adventure. The fact that Zeke had sent several postcards from Kansas and Utah, commenting about the bad mileage he was getting from the Prisoner Bus, didn't help either. But as Zeke always said, "All's well that end's well." He told me that he got to see the west, saved a couple lives, and was a local hero, so he figured it was a pretty good deal for everyone. Each time he'd discuss the adventure, though, he'd complain about the poor gas mileage he got from the Prisoner Bus.

And I also didn't tell you about Gino's experience with Amway. Several guidance counselors, parole officers, clergymen, and two Scout leaders had tried to show Gino the right way, but all had failed. He wasn't interested in what was "right"; he was interested in what he

could get from a situation. Gino was always looking for a fast buck. He was well known for saying, "staying in fine clothes and keeping the dollies happy isn't easy, but somebody has to do it." So Gino had odd-jobs here and there: pumping gas at the filling station, being a waiter at a Pizza Inn, working in Las Vegas one summer, even having a part-time job as a librarian. And then Gino came upon Amway. If you know Amway salespeople, you know that they tend to be TRUE BELIEVERS. Well, there was never an Amway truer-believer than Gino. He was a proselyte's proselyte!

Gino sold cleaning supplies to everyone. You couldn't talk to him for more than 30 or 40 seconds without him asking about your soap needs. My mom still has six or seven gallon jugs of liquid soap that she bought from Gino. I suspect she'll have the same six or seven ten years from now; she never got around to buying a liquid soap dispenser. But she kept buying liquid soap from Gino.

Gino, who in his pre-Amway days always reeked of cigarette smoke and stale beer, laced with Old Spice, now began to smell remarkably like fresh lemons! To this day, I can't see or smell a glass of lemonade without seeing Gino huckstering Amway. His scent drove our dogs, Tokar and Cleo, a bit crazy. They probably thought he was the first wave of the invasion of the citrus monsters.

And then there's dad. He had a great sense of humor and was wonderfully generous. He was many things, but he wasn't handy. I've inherited my inability to do anything around the house from him. My favorite memory of his unhandiness was the time he and mom decided to change the linoleum tile in the bathroom. We had this old bathtub with

Continued on page 6

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