

The *TIMES* of.... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

Vol 25 No. 1

April 1994

FREE

The oldest neighborhood newspaper in St. Louis

BrightSide Blitz Set For April 30

On Saturday, April 30, Skinker DeBaliviere residents can show their neighborhood spirit and pride by helping spruce up the neighborhood. Area block captains are recruiting volunteers for Blitz Day. They will be taking flower orders (marigolds and dianthus) and tool requests from residents, as well as distributing trash bags for clean-up.

This year, wood chips will be available the week before Blitz Day at Ivory Perry Park (Belt and Cabanne). Trash pick-up will begin at 10 a.m. Place all small items in trash dumpster, and be careful not to overload. Large items, such as appliances and furniture, should not be placed next to the dumpster. Rather, place large items directly behind your home if you have a through alley.

For more information on Blitz Day, contact your block captain or SDCC at 862-5122. With everyone's help, we can help make this spring in Skinker DeBaliviere the brightest ever!



Photo by King Schoenfeld

The Y.O.U.R.S. (Youth Organized for Unity and Respect of Self) Basketball Program. See related story on page 5.

Crossroads School Will Host Benefit April 23 With Black Repertory Company

Crossroads School will host a special benefit performance of "The Colored Museum," featuring the cast of the St. Louis Black Repertory Company at 8 p.m. on Saturday, April 23, at the Grandel Square Theater, Grand at Delmar. Funds raised at the performance will benefit more than 30 percent of Crossroads students receiving tuition assistance from the school.

"The Colored Museum," a comedy and satire, features "Eleven exhibits exposing what whites and blacks have been mistakenly assuming about themselves and each other for far too long."

Crossroads School is St. Louis's only private secondary school east of I-170. Founded in 1974 by Arthur and Carol Lieber, Crossroads now marks its 20th anniversary with this special performance. An exceptionally diverse student population ensures that Crossroads students appreciate differences among themselves and different cultures they study and develop their ability to cooperate with many different people.

Crossroads' approach to educating middle and upper school students result in a high degree of student responsibility for learning and in admission to the top 25 colleges and universities for the top third of the senior class.

Margie Wolcott May is the Honorary Chair for the Black Rep Benefit for Crossroads School. Michael C. Williams and Anne Spencer are co-chairs for the event.

For ticket information, please call Colleen at 367-8085.



Michael Williams, Co-Chair, and Margie Wolcott May, Honorary Chair, of the Crossroads School Benefit at the Black Repertory. Williams is Associate Editor of the St. Louis Sentinel.

SDCC Board Selects President

On March 14, the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council Board elected Beth Bender president. She resides on the 6000 block of Westminster and teaches at Soldan High School. The other SDCC officers are Aaron Johnson of 59XX DeGiverville, Vice President; Ruth Johnson, 57XX Westminster, Secretary; and Joe Miller, 60XX McPherson, Treasurer.

Delmar Revitalization Has Setback

On Friday, March 18, a fire destroyed the Wabash Triangle Cafe in the 6100 block of Delmar. The cafe had been operating for several years and was attracting a youthful following to its poetry and musical evenings. The Cafe had been a frequent site for meetings of the Delmar Business Association and the Delmar Commercial Committee. The dense black smoke from the fire was seen by many neighbors.

Delmar Committee chair JoAnn Vatcha was very saddened by the fire but hoped that work would continue to revitalize the street. She announced that the Delmar Redevelopment Plan is nearing completion and that a public hearing would be held in May before it is considered by the Board of Aldermen. The plan will be introduced to the board by Alderman Irving Clay, D-26, and Dan McGuire, D-28. *The Times* will announce the date and time of the hearing in its May issue.

Editor's Notebook

by Lana Stein

There are some things in life that you just don't understand, no matter how many times you hear or read about them. I just don't comprehend the National Rifle Association. I certainly know how powerful they are. They defeated Sen. Tydings in Maryland in 1968. They have a tremendous amount of money and they have a huge membership that they activate into letter writing and other lobbying at the drop of a hat. I know they have many members who are hunters. But, I don't understand why they stymie every effort to stop the bloodletting in our nation's central cities—where very few of their membership live.

When our nation was founded, people had weapons as part of the militia. Those who lived on the frontier, away from neighbors, had guns to protect themselves from marauders. And, many have been hunters, given the plentiful wildlife across the U.S., first for food and then for sport.

There has always been crime in central cities. It is positively associated with the number of males aged 18-25 who are unemployed. There were always crimes with guns. But, they weren't semiautomatic assault rifles which belong, I suppose, with armies—not with teenagers. They are too powerful to use in hunting, they destroy the prey. They destroy humans too.

My students ask me if gun control could really affect the incidence of homicide and other crimes in St. Louis. My answer is only gradually over time. The goal is to stem the flow of weapons in and to get rid of some already there. It is not a panacea that will change the statistics over night. But, eventually it will have an impact.

People in central cities understand the need for gun control. They hear shots every evening and know at least one person who has been felled. Mayor Bosley, Mayor Cleaver of Kansas City, and Governor Carnahan all recognize that our urban areas are not the frontier. They require special measures to limit weaponry that is taking children's lives. Yet, in a recent rally at Forest Park Community College, supporters of the National Rifle Association screamed at the speakers advocating gun control and tried to prevent them from being heard. If you limit ownership of one kind of weapon anywhere, even an Uzi, it is a threat to their ownership of weapons. This all or nothing reasoning is not helping us in St. Louis. We don't care if people have hunting rifles in Moberly or Potosi. We do care about the firearms everywhere around us in St. Louis. As a speaker at the rally said, go home to your communities. We need to change things here.

Going up against the National Rifle Association has usually been foolhardy. Their power has seemed undaunted. Look how long it took to get the Brady Bill and all it calls for is a waiting period before handgun purchase. There are many legislators in Jefferson City and Washington, D.C. who are afraid to defy the NRA even though they recognize that the time has come to take some action about guns.

continued on page 6

The TIMES of... SKINKER DEBALIVIERE

Editor: Lana Stein
Business Manager: JoAnn Vatcha
Production Manager: Venita Lake
Typesetting: Marj Weir

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.

CALENDAR



Neighborhood Events

- 4/5 Beautification Committee, 6:30 p.m., 6008 Kingsbury
- 4/6 6000 Block Kingsbury, 7 p.m., 6008 Kingsbury
- 4/11 SDCC Board of Directors, 7:30 p.m., 6008 Kingsbury
- 4/18 Apartment Owners Association, 7 p.m., 6008 Kingsbury
- 4/19 6000/6100 Blocks Waterman & Pershing, 7 p.m., 6008 Kingsbury
- 4/19 West End Arts Council, 7:30 p.m., 6008 Kingsbury
- 4/30 Neighborhood-Wide Blitz Day
- 4/30 Pershing/Waterman Block Party, 1 p.m., at corner of Pershing and Des Peres

Other Nearby Events of Interest:

now-

- 5/3 Faith Ringgold Exhibition at St. Louis Art Museum. Quilts and soft sculptures. Free.

now-

- 5/30 Textiles of the World at St. Louis Art Museum Special Exhibition Galleries. The exhibition covers 2,500 years.
- 4/6-25 "Raining Cats & Dogs on the Reigning Cat & Dog," conceptual art in the window of Blueberry Hill, 6504 Delmar.
- 4/10 "Come Build A City: Gilded-Age St. Louis" "Bricks" At the History Museum, 2 p.m. Workshop for adult-child teams. \$5.
- 4/21 St. Louis Urban Forum. "Living on the Edge: Shaping St. Louis's New Suburbs." How edge cities are revolutionizing the structure of urban areas. At the Historical Society Library and Collections Center on S. Skinker at 7 p.m. Free.
- 4/27-
- 5/30 "St. Louis Walk of Fame Exhibit" At Blueberry Hill. Pictures and bios of this year's inductees plus photos of the previous 50 great St. Louisans inducted.
- 4/30 Lost St. Louis. Public opening of a new exhibit at the History Museum in Forest Park that will examine the part of the city's architectural heritage that has been lost to urban change and development. Free.

Thank you to all
our recent contributors!

Ernest W. Stix, Jr.
Rick and Joan Bender
Tom and Karleen Hoerr
Sandy and Sue Rothschild
Frank and Mary Hellwig
Polly O'Brien and
Barrett Toan
Robin and Darrell Stoecklin
Michael and Ellen Lowenstein
Vince and Lois Schoemehl
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Gene and Delores Hoefel
Dan Shea and
Kathleen Williams
Ken Cohen
Peter Lukasiewicz and
Shirley Bissen

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JoAnn and Neville Vatcha
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Thank You, Skinker DeBaliviere! Fundraiser a Huge Success!

The Times Board is very grateful to all those who made contributions this year and to those who joined us on February 26 at our most successful fundraiser ever. If current conditions hold, our fundraising will become an annual event. Thanks to Marj Weir and Venita Lake, we are now doing our typesetting and layout ourselves. This saves some money and means fewer appeals to you for aid. Hopefully, we can continue to supply you an interesting newspaper 9 times a year. We're always willing to receive stories for the paper and we continue to look for volunteer reporters and people who would like to do layout. If you're interested, call Lana at 721-7532.

But now to "oh what a time we had!" At least 110 people joined us at New City School on Feb. 26 to eat chili and play trivial pursuit. Seventeen tables ended up competing. The winning table--by just 1 point--was composed of Catherine Forslund, Roy Roncal, Harvey and Ava Small, Mary Davidson, Newton McCoy, James McElveen, and Becky Betebenner. Second place was a tie between Table 3: Ann Frawley, Bob Mahon, Sue Lewis, Bob Lewis, Karen Keaveny, and Janet McGill, and Table 11: Cal and Gee Stuart, Neville and JoAnn Vatcha, and Brad and Marj Weir.

The contest was hard-fought throughout. The biggest complaint was that murder mysteries were included in the literature category. Now, we didn't say great literature. Our alderman, Dan McGuire, reprised as emcee and did a wonderful job, even humming Beethoven as part of a question. He was ably as-

sisted by runners Joe Schoemehl, Courteney MacKuen, and Michelle Sadon. Scorers were Lois Schoemehl and Lana Stein.

First, let's thank New City School and Tom Hoerr for the wonderful facilities. Twice now they've given us a location so that the game could take place. We are very grateful that Rossino's restaurant donated appetizers. They were delicious. Chili cooks included Rose Storey, Dec Schoenfeld, Marj Weir, Lois Schoemehl, JoAnn Vatcha, and Lana Stein. Venita Lake supplied soup. Sue Rothschild, Kathleen Williams, Arline Webb, and Lana Stein baked delectable treats. Jim Schoemehl performed yeoman service as bartender, including making a couple extra beer runs!

One of the main prizes consisted of the brand-new Times of Skinker DeBaliviere tee-shirt. It has our logo in white on a field of beautiful blue. We have these tee-shirts available for sale. They are X-large. If you would like one, please call Marj at 863-7558. They are \$12. Thanks to Kathleen Williams who arranged their manufacture. Other prizes were donated by Blueberry Hill, The New Theatre, and Delmar Cleaners thanks to Sue Rothschild.

It seems like everyone had a good time and *The Times* is very grateful for the support of its readers and friends everywhere. Perhaps the specialness of the neighborhood is reflected in those who work and party together to benefit our institutions. We are thinking of doing it again next February so start boning up. It's never too early to learn the really inconsequential.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!



BicycleWorks Food Pantry Collection Crew: from left, Erica Webb, Kanisha, Sandra, Rose Flynn, Brandy Fox, Daniel Flynn, Heather, Randall, Justin, Antoine, Megan, Wesley Falker, Beth Bender, Katherine Madalena, Alicia Webb, Arline Webb, and SDCC Director, Kim Koenig. We regret that not all last names were available for printing.

Papa John's Pizza Coming to Neighborhood

On April 9, Papa John's Pizza will open at the DeBaliviere Shopping Center. Papa John's has existing stores in the county and this represents their first venture inside city limits.

The owner has already become involved with our community. After

reading Beth Bender's piece on the new BicycleWorks program in the March issue, he has decided to donate pizzas to every BicycleWorks session. So far, he has brought in food from his county operation but will continue with pizzas prepared in our neighborhood.



Winners of *The Times* Trivia Contest, February 26: Ava and Harvey Small, Becky Betebenner, James McElveen, Mary Davidson, Newton McCoy, Emcee Dan McGuire, Catherine Forslund, Roy Roncal, and Times Editor Lana Stein.

Photos by King Schoenfeld



Trivia Contest Runners and Scorers: Courteney MacKuen, Michelle Sadon, flanked by the hardworking Lois Schoemehl and her sons Tim and Joe. Chanaya Vatcha Jacobs looks on.

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Pet Talk

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

Last month's column detailed information about rodenticide, lead and antifreeze poisoning. Choke chain collars, garbage, flies, over-the-counter medications, thread, yarn and string are also potentially hazardous to pets.

Choke chain collars are only meant to be worn when a dog is on a leash and accompanied by a human. They are designed to get the dog's attention and give the person a control advantage; they are often used as a training tool. A choke collar left on an unattended pet is potentially a way for the pet to strangulate. Several years ago a neighborhood pet strangled because the loose end of her choke chain slipped through the space between the boards on the porch deck. Struggling to free herself, she fell off the edge of the deck and was hung by her choke collar. Occasionally, an owner will place a chain collar on a young puppy; sometimes the collar is not visible under the dog's fur. If the dog grows too large for the collar, the collar will slowly cut into the skin, burying itself deeper the larger the dog becomes. Although any collar has the potential for causing this problem, chain collars are more dangerous. A dog should wear a leather or nylon collar loose enough to allow two fingers to be slipped between it and the dog's neck, but tight enough not to slip over the dog's head. A choke chain should only be worn in special situations, it should fit loosely, and it should never be left on an unattended pet.

Garbage ingestion can make a dog, "as sick as a dog". Pancreatitis, a life threatening inflammation of the pancreas, may be triggered by a dog eating high fat content food scraps.



Romeo

Meat bones are quickly chewed into small pieces, pass quickly through a dog's intestinal tract and create stools that are extremely painful, sometimes impossible, to pass. Plastic, aluminum foil, and cloth can become stuck in a pet's intestinal tract. Toxins from spoiled food scraps cause food poisoning with the expected results on an owner's carpets.

During July and August, flies will damage a dog's ears by constantly biting the part of the ear highest on the dog's head: fly strike. The ear bleeds, the dog scratches traumatizing the area further and a large scab develops. Eventually, a portion of the ear flap is eaten away. House-dogs do not usually have this problem; they are not outdoors long enough. An ointment is available to repel the flies.

Acetomenaphin (Tylenol) poisons cats. Never give a cat tylenol and ask your veterinarian before ever giving a cat aspirin. It too can be toxic at the wrong dosage. Dogs may take both drugs, but should do so at the direction of a veterinarian.

Cat's love to play with strings, yarn and other linear objects, cats also like to eat these objects. The string will lodge in the intestinal tract causing the cat to vomit repeatedly. Surgery is usually required to remove the string and any damaged sections of intestines. All such string-like objects should be kept securely hidden from a cat unless the owner is present. □

Photos by King Schoenfeld

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Hamilton Community School Presents... Avis D. May, Community School Coordinator

by Mary Schmit

Avis D. May has been serving as the coordinator of Hamilton Community School since 1992. She is 35. She especially enjoys working with children of all ages and the opportunity to serve neighborhood residents.

May graduated cum laude from Tarkio College in southeast Missouri. She has a B.S. in Management Information Systems and in Business Management.

May wants to encourage Skinker DeBaliviere to take advantage of its community school and the many courses it offers. She is quite enthusiastic about the newest course offering, Step Aerobics. It is taught by Ernestine Kelly, a local resident. It begins Tuesday, Mar. 29 and continues until May 26.

Neighbors are invited to stop by the community school any Monday through Thursday evening up until 9:00 p.m. and see the newly renovated facilities. There is a beautiful new gym and more! See what your tax dollars have accomplished. The Hamilton faculty is an asset of which the whole Skinker DeBaliviere community can be proud. May encourages everyone to call with questions,



Avis May

ideas, or to enroll in classes at 367-6996. She looks forward to meeting you.

Even with a very active job, May pursues active hobbies. She roller skates and travels a great deal. She has been to Rio de Janeiro, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, and Europe several times. During spring this year, she and her family will visit Greece.

Christopher Gaskin



Christopher Gaskin

Chris is a permanent, part-time Hamilton Community School Aide. He began working at Hamilton in January of this year. His duties include supervision and tutoring of the children in the After-School Program and assisting coaches in basketball practice sessions. You will probably meet Chris when you visit Hamilton, since he also monitors the front door during the adult evening programs and assists the coordinator with office tasks, such as student registration.

Chris, 17, is currently a junior at Christian Brothers' College High School, where he is an honor student. Chris' immediate plans include continuing his education with the intention of going to Morehouse College.

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Photos by King Schoenfeld



Hamilton Community School strives to teach our youngsters teamwork and motivation. From what *The Times* saw at a recent basketball practice, Hamilton seems to be doing a pretty good job. Coordinator Avis May says the Community School wants young men and women to learn that they can set goals and achieve them. Through the Y.O.U.R.S. (Youth Organized for Unity and Respect of Self) Basketball Program, not only are their goals realized, but our children have a great learning environment and an alternative to being on the street. Thanks to Teamwork, Inc. (City of St. Louis) and Hamilton Community School, our youth can look forward to a better and brighter future.



Eydie Caine and her son Gabriel (left) get the attention of another youngster who has come out to watch basketball practice at the Hamilton Community School. "I wish more parents would come out and support their children's teams," said Mrs. Caine.

Home Improvement

EXPANDING LIVING SPACE - PART II FINISHING A BASEMENT

by Amrit Gill

In the last article I discussed the factors that influence the cost and ease of converting an existing attic into useful livable space. Expanding into a basement can be an equally cost effective alternative. Once again, a short inspection tour can help you analyze the potential pitfalls that can raise the cost and difficulty level of converting your basement into living space.

First you have to be able to walk around the basement—so spring cleaning is in order. It's hard to know how much space you have if you can only see the first row of boxes. After you have cleaned have a garage sale! You will be losing storage space in the basement so you can't keep everything you have had stashed away down there. You will be amazed at how much more space there is (besides all your neighbors want to know what you have been keeping down there).

Quite obviously, there are major differences between an attic conversion and refinishing a basement. Among others, a major difference is that in an attic the concern was how to tie into the existing systems, in a basement the major problem is to figure out how to design and build around them.

1. STRUCTURE: Is the height of the basement ceiling seven feet or more? Is the floor concrete or earth? If the ceiling height is less than seven feet but the floor is earth, then additional clearance could possibly be arranged at a reasonable cost. If your floor is concrete you can still make the addition but the cost becomes prohibitive. Less than

seven foot ceilings make it a cave—not an addition.

2. SYSTEMS: Are the systems (heat, hot water, electric panel) spread haphazardly over the basement or are they arranged in some semblance of order? Do you have a maze of low-hanging electrical or water lines? If so these may have to be moved in order to build the addition. Is the basement dry during heavy rains? If not, that problem needs to be solved before the basement can be refinished. Are there supporting pillars in the center of the basement? You know the things your kids ride their bikes around. If so, you need to design around these pillars. You may also need to check the capacity of your systems to take on a whole other floor.

3. ALL FRAMING AND INSULATION: What kind of walls exist? To maintain a comfortable temperature, you will need to frame and insulate the exterior walls of your basement. In addition, framing the exterior walls allows the new electric to be run easily. I like to use steel studs, set a couple of inches from the wall. This allows me to make sure the walls are straight all over, as well as allowing me to insulate the walls to R-19 (remember the vapor barrier). Since none of the walls are load-bearing, code allows you to use 2x3's, set a couple of inches from the wall.

If the basement is going to be used for a sleeping area (for which a second exit is required under the fire code), or as a home office, I prefer to insulate the ceiling and use 5/8" fire code drywall on the ceiling as well. This reduces noise between the basement and the first floor and makes living on both these floors much more comfortable, and allows private conversations to remain private.

One thing that I would very strongly urge is that you get help with the design of your new living space. We know a couple who designed their entire basement to be lived in and forgot to leave storage space as well. They don't get to park in their garage anymore. Designed well, the new addition can provide years of versatile service. Designed poorly, the new addition can be a potential white elephant that is poorly utilized. See you at the garage sale!!

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Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council

Board of Directors
March 14, 1994
Minutes

Attending the meeting were: Directors R. Johnson, A. Smith Carr, G. Freeman, K. Keaveny, T. Roland, J. Wright, S. Polk, L. Stein, G. Hayes, A. Johnson, B. Bender, M. Hart-Mahon, A. Webb, J. Miller, D. Bordes, M. Merritt, and S. Johnson; ConSrv Officer J. Waits; and SDCC Executive Director K. Koenig.

Guests were: K. McAlcenan and E. Liebson.

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

I. Review of Minutes

A. Webb moved "That the minutes of the January Board meeting be accepted as read"; seconded by G. Freeman and approved.

II. Treasurer's Report

J. Miller presented the 1994 budget prepared by the Finance Committee. The budget includes an \$8,000 shortfall for the year.

After much discussion, it was decided that the Finance/Fundraising Committee will meet and report possible fundraising options to the Board in April. T. Roland and S. Polk agreed to join this committee.

III. Committee/Association Reports

Commercial Planning - L. Stein reported that maps to be incorporated with the Redevelopment Plan have not yet been completed by CDA. The plan is still going to be introduced to the Board of Aldermen in April. K. Koenig also reported that Papa John's Pizza and the DeBaliviere Deli will soon be located in the DeBaliviere Strip Center.

5900 DeGiverville - A. Johnson reported that their block unit is planning a night on the Alton Belle on May 12, 1994.

5700 DeGiverville - No report.

Kingsbury Square - No report.

Nina Place - L. Stein reported that residents are still waiting for construction to begin with unfinished buildings. The condominium association is willing to listen to alternate proposals for this development.

Parkview - K. Keaveny reported that residents are working on improving lighting and trimming trees on Limits Walkway.

Rosedale - J. Miller reported that most of Rosedale's energy is still focused on bingo. Rosedale will hold its annual meeting/election in April/May.

Housing Corporation - K. Koenig thanked T. Roland for her efforts in trying to get the National Guard to demolish 519 Des Peres.

However, the Housing Corp. has decided, with a loan from a private citizen, to incur the demolition costs themselves. K. Koenig also reported that A. Gill has purchased 6011 Kingsbury for market-rate apartments. The five-unit building will include a parking pad. He is asking for a letter of support from the Council for this project. After much discussion, D. Bordes moved

"That the Council support A. Gill's project at 6011 Kingsbury"; seconded by A. Carr and approved. K. Koenig will ask A. Gill for a copy of the plans to keep at the SDCC office if anyone is interested in seeing them.

Recreation - B. Bender reported that BicycleWorks has officially started in the neighborhood. Four youth leaders and adults are in the process of being trained. B. Bender explained that while two grants are pending for funding, presently there is not money available to pay for initial consulting costs of \$700. After much discussion, T. Roland moved "That the BicycleWorks program be approved for funding through the Community Fund in the amount of \$700"; seconded by S. Polk and approved.

Social Services - B. Bender reported that the first Annual Community-Wide Food Drive will be held on Saturday, March 19.

Residents who have items to donate are asked to have them on their front porch by 9:30 a.m. Anyone interested in volunteering, please meet at SDCC office at 9:15 a.m. Proceeds will be donated to our four neighborhood churches.

Community Fund - J. Miller distributed copies of the Structure (By-Laws) and Guidelines for discussion. L. Stein moved "That the Structure be adopted as read"; seconded by B. Bender and approved. J. Miller reviewed changes to the Guidelines, and B. Bender moved "That the guidelines be accepted as read"; seconded by G. Freeman and unanimously approved. T. Roland volunteered to write an article for *The Times* to inform residents of the Community Fund.

Beautification - K. Koenig announced that Blitz Day is April 30. She asked for a volunteer to chair this committee. K. Keaveny and G.

Hayes agreed to serve on this committee.

MLK Commemoration - J. Wright extended his gratitude to all committee members and G. Freeman for their participation in this year's ceremony.

Discussion of Strategic Plan - J. Waits asked for comments on the draft Strategic Plan which they received in the mail last week. Since there were a few Board members that did not receive the document, J. Waits requested that all comments be given to her or K. Koenig by March 18. J. Wright moved "That the Strategic Plan be adopted pending any suggestions/changes that should come in by March 18"; seconded by G. Freeman and approved with two abstentions.

IV. J & W Liquor, 6104 Delmar

K. Koenig reported that the process is moving forward to restrict J & W's liquor license to prohibit sales of 40 ounce beer and half-pints of liquor. The Excise Commissioner has yet to establish a hearing date for the matter.

V. Discussion of Board Meeting Times

K. Koenig asked if Board members were still comfortable with the 7:30 p.m. meeting time. The majority indicated that this was a convenient time, so the 7:30 p.m. meetings will stand. However, the meetings will try to be limited to 1 1/2 hours.

VI. Adoption of By-Laws Revisions

A. Johnson asked that everyone review the revision; "allowing the chair to only vote in the case of a tie." R. Johnson moved "That the By-Laws revision be accepted as read"; seconded by B. Bender and approved.

VII. Election of President

B. Bender and G. Hayes were nominees for the office of President, and a vote was taken for this office. Beth Bender will serve as president for the 1994 term.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:02 p.m.

Trash Reminders

Kim Koenig, Executive Director of the Skinker DeBaliviere Community Council, passes along the following reminders as spring and warmer weather fast approach:

- Cardboard boxes should be flattened first to save space.
- Food garbage should be bagged and wrapped first.
- Cat litter may be bagged, but pet waste should be disposed of through the toilet.
- Do not overload your dumpster. If you can't close the lid, the dumpster is overloaded. Take your trash to another dumpster where there is room.
- Remember to place all trash in the dumpster. Trash piled on the ground, except for bulky and B.O.A.T. items, will not be picked up.
- Do not move dumpsters. If the dumpster is blocking something, please call the Citizen's Service Bureau at 622-4800.

If you have a specific request or complaint about the dumpsters, roll-out carts or collection service, please call the Citizens Service Bureau at 622-4800.

If you would like more information about the City's recycling and trash collection programs, please call the Refuse Division at 353-8877.

Notice to Residents

Recently, there have been several reports of panhandlers in the neighborhood. These individuals' requests vary from money to Kool-Aid to using the phone. If someone should approach your residence, please call 911 immediately.

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

continued from page 2

The recent vote in Missouri which denied St. Louis and Kansas City the power to set more rigid gun control standards within their borders is an NRA victory and a loss for our city and its residents.

The NRA's slogan used to be "Guns don't kill people, people kill people." But, if no gun was present, how many killings would in fact take place? Perhaps St. Louisans have to become more organized lobbyists. Write your legislator and write many other legislators. The time has come to end the killing fields here at home.



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

- novelist Stanley Elkin

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- Joe Pollack, St. Louis Post-Dispatch



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Grace and Peace Mourns Long-Time Pastor and Friend

by Phyllis H. Wheeler

We gathered from near and far -- St. Louis, New York, Texas, California, Iowa, Indiana, and, yes, Africa. At the funeral we spoke of our love for him and how he had helped us in times of need. You may have noticed the traffic jam as the funeral procession headed for Bellefontaine Cemetery on the afternoon of March 11. At the graveside service, we sang song after song and, tears flowing, heaped dirt into his grave. We lingered for nearly two hours, not bearing to leave him.

Grace and Peace Fellowship buried its longtime pastor, Egon A. Middelmann, who died suddenly March 8. He was nearly 52. He had served Grace and Peace, a congregation of the Presbyterian Church in America, for 24 years after helping to found it in 1969.

We loved him because of his teaching, which was "profound -- imbued with grace and truth," according to one member of the congregation, Steve Wheeler. A former member, the Rev. Ron Lutjens who now has his own church, said his family had moved to St. Louis to be a part of this Christian community. "A stirring rendition of the gospel was at the heart of this flourishing community of believers," he said.

We loved him because he had helped us in times of need. "You could always depend on Egon," said McKinley Johnson. "He had a heart for everybody," said Ruth Beckloff.

We loved him because he counseled us. "In every pivotal decision in my life in the past 15 years, Egon participated," said Sarah Leggett. Arlene Itzi said, "He showed me the acceptability of every person. He showed me how to serve both society and God." He touched the core of



Egon Middelmann

our being. "Jesus Christ used Egon to bring me out of the land of slavery and give me a profound taste of freedom and glory," said Marc Abbott.

There were amusing memories too. Egon, a bachelor, is survived by his dog Micah, "who was the only creature in this world who Egon felt was without sin," said William Hudson.

Other sides to his personality were visible in memories of Bob Lowes'. "I remember him at a square dance we had one time. He seemed to be the most exuberant dancer, so high-spirited, so energetic." Lowes also remembers that Egon went with one of his neighbors to hear Louis Farrakhan speak. "He went because Louis Farrakhan was important to his friend. He wanted to know about it too, even though he might not agree. He certainly empathized with people who held different views."

I was grateful for the premarital counseling he gave my husband and me. He had us stage a mock argument, which turned into a real argument, and coached us on how to resolve it. I have always wondered how a bachelor could know so much about marriage.

Egon was at the heart of Grace and Peace, which has served the Skinker-DeBaliviere neighborhood since it was founded. Jack Wright, former president of the Skinker-DeBaliviere Community Council and

now an elder of Grace and Peace, watched the church from the sidelines for many years. "It's been a vital part of the neighborhood, adding diversity," he said. His children participated in the church programs for children. But he wasn't part of the church then. "I couldn't understand those people I'd see every Sunday carrying casseroles." Now that he is in it, he has found it to be a caring church, he said. In addition, he has been challenged by Egon, he said.

Grace and Peace used a storefront building at Kingsbury and Des Peres as its home between 1970 and 1985, when it moved to its present larger building on Delmar at Clara. Many church members continue to live in the Skinker-DeBaliviere neighborhood, as did Egon. Church programs minister to this neighborhood and to others as well. Cornerstone Corporation, a non-profit housing corporation set up by Grace and Peace, owns several buildings in Skinker-DeBaliviere and seeks to rent apartments at below-market rates. The church has a food pantry, and it also operates a winter shelter for homeless women in the basement.

Egon was born in Germany March 16, 1942. He came to St. Louis in 1968 to study at Covenant Theological Seminary in west St. Louis County, where he obtained a master of divinity degree. In addition to his pastoral duties, in recent years he counseled AIDS patients.

He studied political science and history at Heidelberg University and Freiburg University in Germany. Surviving him are his mother, two brothers, and a sister. Memorial contributions may be made to Grace and Peace Fellowship, 5574 Delmar Boulevard, St. Louis, MO 63112, or to St. Louis Effort for Aids, 5622 Delmar Boulevard. 63112.

Vicissitudes

by Marj Weir

Jim & Sue Gamble are moving into Barrett Toan & Polly O'Brien's house on Kingsbury. The Gamble's younger daughter, Genevieve, goes to New City School; the older daughter, Corena, attends Crossroads.

Karleen Hoerr is going to Mexico with her sister Jan & brother-in-law Gary Bierman over spring break. Our informant reports she's on a shoe-buying mission.

The second generation is taking over. Beth Bender is the new SDCC

President and Joe Stout, 22, has become block captain for 6100 McPherson. He's in school and interested in a public sector career, according to our informant. Congratulations to State Representative Nancy Farmer who will run for reelection unopposed in both the primary and general elections.

We wish a speedy convalescence to both Vince Schoemehl, Sr. and his daughter, Lu Green. They've both been into the operating room very recently.

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restaurant...
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- St. Louis Post-Dispatch

In Your Ear

by Hawkeye Q. Hoerr

You never know what will show up at your door, thanks to UPS. It was a couple of years ago, the exact date is a bit fuzzy, and I was sitting at home, quietly conversing with Henry, my laptop computer, when the doorbell rang. It was the United Parcel Service delivery person. Somewhat preoccupied, I signed for the package, paying little attention to its contents. True, I should have been more careful, maybe, just maybe, I could have headed things off at the pass. But I was distracted because I was in the middle of writing a letter to Uncle Zeke. He had a probation hearing the next month and I was offering him some sage advice. Zeke, you see, had gone to his last hearing wearing a T-shirt that said, "Cops are pigs! Up yours, society!" For some reason, his parole request was denied. I was writing to convince him not to wear his favorite shirt, the one with the big drawing of Charles Manson and J. Edgar Hoover, standing arm-in-arm, offering peace signs.

The package sat on the piano, outside of my consciousness until the first wife came home. "Wonderful," she shrieked, picking it up and rubbing the box against her cheek. "they've finally come." Her face was afire with joy.

"What's finally come, dear?" I asked, looking up from Henry's screen, holding a cigar in one hand and a chocolate-chip cookie in the other. (A man is nothing without nourishment.) Karleen wailed, "My first shipment from the SHOE-OF-THE-MONTH CLUB!" She was absolutely giddy with happiness.

The SHOE-OF-THE-MONTH CLUB! Can you believe it? I was aghast. My wife needs more shoes like the Menendez family needed more children.

Now mind you, I've nothing against "of-the-month" clubs. In fact, in the past I used to belong to the Book-of-the-Month Club, and I am now a proud member of the Quality-Paperback -Book-of-the-Month Club. Once upon a time I even belonged to the Tie-of-the-Month Club. That membership didn't last long, because the ties weren't that great. "Funeral ties," Cousin Gino used to call 'em, "the kind of tie you wear to a funeral, whether you're coming or going."

I also used to belong to the Cigar-of-the-the-Month Club. Now that

was great! You'd simply put in your order for 100 or 200 Napoleons, Churchills, or Presidents (the names of the cigars were their best features), decide whether you wanted green or brown leaf, and bingo, they'd be shipped automatically from a warehouse in Tampa. The Cigar-of-the-Month brochure said that while it was true the cigars weren't really from Cuba, these particular seeds had been smuggled out just before Castro came to power, and they were now grown in comparable land with a similar climate. Honest! But those were the only of-the-month clubs that I joined. I don't know, maybe I'm a loner or maybe I just have something against clubs. After all, despite their letters congratulating me on my fine credit rating I turned down joining the Columbia Record-of-the-Month and the Real Rock CD-of-the-Month Clubs. And I didn't join either the Jelly-of-the-Month Club or the Bread-of-the-Month Club. And I passed on the Pear-of-the-Month Club (which guarantees you, according to the ad in the *New York Times*, "tasty, succulent pears year-round, regardless of the climate where you live"). I continue to get solicitations from the Video-of-the-Month Club, but since I don't have time to read the books I get through the Quality-Paperback-Book-of-the-Month Club, I sure don't want to order videos that I'll never get around to watching.

But the wife is a different story. She's a joiner. When we were first married, she belonged to the Sweater-of-the-Month Club. It originated in Scotland; if you gave them your size and season (Karleen is a "winter"), the sweaters showed up as if by magic on your doorstep each month. Magic and Mastercard, anyway.

Shortly after joining the Sweater-of-the-Month Club she joined the Spoede China Plate-of-the-Month club. I couldn't complain because I had just purchased a jukebox. The Plate-of-the-Month Club was interesting, I'll say that much for it. The design on the dinner plates varied with the season. So naturally, in December she received a Christmas plate, featuring an evergreen tree surrounded by little teddy bears and wrapped presents. In February the plate had a picture of Lincoln and Washington standing in front of the United States flag. The March plate

featured a leprechaun and the April one had a field of flowers. My favorite, though, was the May plate depicting the all the race cars, engines revving and exhaust fumes billowing, at the starting line of the Indianapolis 500.

The wife belonged to the Plate-of-the-Month Club for four or five years. Since our stove has been disconnected, we don't cook, we have more dishes than we could ever hope to use. After all, you eat Domino's and Lean Cuisines right from the box, so who needs a plate? Fortunately, even she grew tired of the drawings on the plates and resigned. It was clear that they had run out of good scenes; I mean, who really wants to eat from a plate with a picture of John Wayne in his "Hondo" outfit? Still, we wound up with four or five dozen plates, including the entire John Travolta series.

But the Shoe-of-the-Month Club? It's designed for women with the centipede mentality: they can NEVER have enough shoes! Each month the wife gets a pair of shoes, 6B for summer and 6C for winter with socks, delivered by UPS. The shoes, she says, are quite stylish and not all that expensive. (Between you and me, I don't complain too much because I figure that I'm ahead. Since she's not going into the stores to buy shoes, she can't save me money by purchasing all of the other bargains that she sees along the way. I can only afford to save so much money.)

The first pair she received was brown leather with a red bow on the toes. Because she's "a winter," she exchanged them for black ones with a red bow. (I don't understand this at all, but I've learned not to argue.) Once the black ones arrived, she announced that she liked them enough to not just keep them, but name them as well. She feels that her shoes are more personal if they have names, so over the years all two or three hundred pairs of her shoes were given names.

So Larry and Lucy, black with red bows, are now firmly ensconced in her closet. Mike and Maria were the second pair. I remember them clearly because they were a pair of yellow, leather tennis shoes. I told her that they looked like margarine to me. All she did was roll her eyes, she kept wearing the shoes.

I remember Jennifer and Slater well. They were boots, the kind that you'd wear to a motorcycle rally or Ross Perot speech. Others followed, one pair each month. Although I'm not sure of the order, our household was joined by Craig and Patsy, Esmerelda and Jose, Ralph and Trixie, and Sam and Rebecca (these arrived around the time of the "Cheers" finale) to name a few. We became best friends with our UPS deliverers, Eddie and Karen.

Now getting a pair of shoes delivered automatically, each month, didn't mean that the wife would cut back on her regular shoe purchases. I foolishly raised that issue once and she said something that even if we had a pizza delivered once each month, we'd still have to eat other meals. The logic of this escaped me, but I've learned not to ask or argue. Since we never throw away anything in our house, the collection of shoes grew larger and larger and larger. If I didn't know better, I'd think that they were multiplying behind closed doors! Imelda Marcos would look upon my wife's shoe army with envy.

About a year ago "California Closets" came to our house to give a bid on turning our spare third floor bedroom into a shoe closet. You should have seen the look on the salesperson's face when she left after giving us a bid for the work. She was no doubt thinking of the around-the-world cruise that she could purchase with the commission on this closet, alone! Karleen didn't want the shoes to feel claustrophobic, a healthy shoe is a happy shoe, so we went ahead with the renovation. There were three workmen here for most of two days, creating shelves, using tiny nails to tack nameplates on the shelves for the shoes, and putting in rack upon rack upon rack for the shoes themselves. Oops, I mean for Bruce and Denise, Paul and Paula, and so on.

So all's well that ends well. The Shoe-of-the-Month company is certainly happy. United Parcel is delighted. The California Closets salesperson is on a junket somewhere, smiling at her good fortune. And Karleen beams every time she goes to the shoe room to talk to her friends. I just hope that Zeke doesn't come here looking for a place to stay if he ever gets his parole. I don't know how he'd react to hear that he has to share a room with three or four hundred of the wife's dearest friends.

The Times Carries On - With Readers' Help

This is the first month of the 25th year of publishing for this newspaper. For all of that time it has been produced by the volunteer labor of community residents, loyal advertisers and generous donors. One of the groups that labor every month to bring *The Times* to you is the battalion of distributors who bring it to your door. We list them here both to thank them and to give you a chance to thank them for their service. There are blocks in the distribution area for which we have no distributor. If you live on one of these blocks and could donate the hour or so each month that it takes to deliver

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